

## Table of Contents

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND? .....	7
2. FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND .....	9
REGIONAL VARIETY .....	11
MOBILITY.....	16
MOVING WEST .....	16
THE FRONTIER AND THE FAMILY .....	17
INTERNAL MIGRATION .....	18
URBANIZATION .....	18
3. MEASURING ANOTHER DISTANCE.....	20
THEY'VE ALL COME TO LOOK FOR AMERICA.....	22
4. WE THE PEOPLE.....	27
A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS .....	27
THE "AVERAGE AMERICAN" .....	32
"MELTING POT", "SALAD BOWL" OR "PIZZA" .....	32
DEMOGRAPHICS.....	35
5. CHANGING PATTERNS OF IMMIGRATION.....	37
IMMIGRATION LAWS .....	37
WHY THEY CAME – WHY THEY COME.....	38
SCOTS, ENGLISH AND IRISH IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK, 1840s,1850s	
CONTRIBUTION OF THE CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S. ....	42
AMERICAN CHINESE CUISINE .....	45
6. RELIGION .....	46
Major American Religions .....	46
Religion and Government.....	49
Are Americans Religious?.....	50
Freedom of Religion.....	52
PROTESTANTS .....	54
CATHOLICS .....	54
MOSLEMS.....	55
JEWS .....	55
QUAKERS .....	55
7. CRIME.....	57
THE LEGAL SYSTEM.....	57
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT .....	58
MURDER AND DEATH PENALTY .....	61
GUN CONTROL.....	65
8. AMERICAN GOVERNMENT .....	66
THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS .....	66
THE GOVERNMENTAL POWERS.....	72
HORIZONTAL POWERS <sup>1</sup> .....	72
9. CONGRESS .....	73
THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.....	74
THE WORK ENVIRONMENT.....	75
THE PRESIDENT .....	76

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY .....	80
CHECKS AND BALANCES.....	81
10. Icelander Ethnic Group.....	83
Assimilation and Group Maintenance .....	83
GEORGIAN IMMIGRATION IN THE U.S .....	83
CAUSES OF LABOR MIGRATION. ITS SCALE AND TRENDS IN GEORGIA .....	84
MAIN TRENDS OF LABOR MIGRATION .....	85
METHODS OF ORGANIZING LABOR MIGRATION .....	87
INFLUENCE OF LABOR MIGRATION ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC .....	88
POTENTIAL OF GEORGIA .....	88
GENDER ASPECTS OF LABOR MIGRATION .....	90
11. POLITICAL PARTIES .....	92
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM.....	92
POLITICAL PARTIES .....	93
POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS .....	94
PARTIES ORGANIZE THE ELECTION PROCESS .....	95
12. ELECTIONS .....	97
FEDERALISM .....	99
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS .....	103
13. Vacationing in the U.S.....	104
Seeing the Sights .....	105
Sightseeing in the Eastern Cities .....	106
Visiting the Midwest .....	108
Visiting the South .....	109
14. WELFARE .....	112
SOCIAL SECURITY AND POVERTY .....	112
SOCIAL INSURANCE.....	114
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.....	116
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.....	116
TRANSPORTATION .....	117
ROADS.....	117
WATERWAYS .....	118
RAILROADS .....	119
CONTEMPORARY RAILROAD .....	119
THE CAR CULTURE.....	120
AIRPLANES .....	122
Glossary .....	125

## 1. IN SEARCH OF AMERICA

The first creators of the American history were peoples of Asia, Europe, and Africa. Asiatic hunters became the first inhabitants of North America when they hunted animals for food between 12, 000 and 30, 000 years ago. Over thousands of years, these first Americans developed diverse cultures. Starting in the 1400s, Europeans came to North America and they had several reasons. They hoped to find riches, adventure, or religious freedom. On the other hand, Africans who came were forced to leave their home.

Europeans and Africans transferred some of the Old World to the New World reshaping their economic, political, and social structures to adjust to the new environment. A huge area seemed to offer freedom and favorable conditions for all free white men. The Europeans replaced traditional notions of hereditary monarchy and nobility with greater democracy and equality. African Americans built communities of their own within the heartless world of slavery. Plantation slaves married, raised children, and over time, formed kinship networks. They transferred African names and traditions and created new ones. These links between individuals and families formed reestablished communities. Slave communities formed dialects with the elements of African language and English to help newly arrived people from many different African ethnic groups as well as American-born slaves to communicate with one another. Individuals or families alone cannot create a language, only a community can do it. Common African heritage and common slave status were the basis of the African American community<sup>1</sup>.

---

**1. Peter Bromhead, “Life in Modern America” U.S. 1994, p. 14**

African Americans remade traditional African dance, song, just as they reestablished traditional arts: wood working, iron making, and weaving. Through their culture, the slaves shared the recognition of their common oppression.

Just as European settlers set colonial communities, so Africans, who made up the largest ethnic group to come to North America during the colonial time, created unique communities of their own. It is a story of accomplishment under the most difficult circumstances and of the establishing families, kin networks and communities.

Europeans survived in America with the help of native people who introduced them to new agricultural produce such as corn and squash and new ways of utilizing the land resources. The success reached by many of these settlers depended on the labor of Africans in the tobacco plantations and rice fields of the South and the commercial success of the slave trade for northern merchants. Yet in the eighteenth century, the new nation's basic principles "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" had not yet reached the slaves and Native Americans. By 1783, when the new nation emerged on the globe, most of the native population had been destroyed by disease and by war with European settlers. The native cultures that survived were transformed.

A clash of cultures took place in North America throughout centuries following Columbus's landing in the New World. Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans began creating a new nation, meanwhile all three metamorphosed.

In its huge area the United States includes most of the physical conditions known to human beings; heat and cold, forest and endless plains, empty spaces and megalopolis, and the world's longest river system. Life in the southern sub-tropical forests differs from life in the North, where the winters are colder than anywhere in Western Europe.

As it is difficult to talk in general about Europe as a unit, with diverse climate and culture, mountains, plains and coasts, in the far bigger area of the United States, there are too many characteristics to be described in a single generalization. Incredible is the diversity of the people themselves. It is not only because some came originally from Britain, others from Italy, Ireland, Poland or Germany; first-generation immigrants are still close to their diverse origins, though not only most long-established Irish, but also fourth-generation Italians differ according to the characteristics of the intermarriage. Yet there is a lack of considerable cultural difference among the regions, because all these

different people are dissipated everywhere, with only minor local ethnic peculiarities. While describing the great Republic of the United States, it would be tempting to say, that it is the same country, even in area, as it was at all the time of its foundation in the 1780s. The original Union consisted of thirteen states in the eastern coastline, the thirty-five continental states which have been added since independence occupy an area eight times as big as the original thirteen, and more than two-thirds of all Americans now live in these thirty-five states, in an area which about 200 years ago was partly Spanish and most of it was not explored and developed. However the founders of the Constitution envisaged that as settlement spread westwards and new areas were explored by populations capable of self-government, so new states would be authorized to join the Union. This process began straight away. Kentucky and Tennessee-southwards, and across the mountains- Virginia were added in 1792 and 1796, and later the admission of states west of Pennsylvania began with Ohio in 1803. The addition of new states in the nineteenth century is the story of the conquest of the West, with the wagons and then the railroads, the cowboys and the sheriffs, part of human experience which the Western movie constantly revitalizes. The last set of northwestern states was included after 1890. The list of forty-eight continental states was at last complete, and in 1959 the first separate territories were bestowed statehood- Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean, <sup>1</sup> and the great northern pioneers' land of Alaska, which was first settled by the Russian, following voyages by the Dane, Bering (1728, 1741), it was under the trade control of the Russian American company until 1867 when it was purchased by the USA. Oil production (discovered 1950) is the major industry on Alaska and there are rich supplies of natural gas. Coal, gold, and copper are mined. Fishing, especially salmon, and forestry are also major industries. Agricultural development is hindered by the short growing season and severe climate. A number of gold rushes in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century helped to expand the scarce population to 2000. It became the 49<sup>th</sup> state in 1959.

Although the country is so huge and its people have so many different ethnic backgrounds, it is in some ways less varied than Europe.

---

**1. Peter Bromhead "Life in Modern America" U.S. p. 2**

The national origins of the people are by now well mixed throughout the country, though there are some exceptions. The English language is actually universal in its American form.

The American way of speaking has developed independently of England and is on the whole closer to what can be heard in Ireland than to the speech of any other part of the British Isles; but because of the absence of real regional or class variety in speech as usage, is one of the characteristics that tend to make the whole country evidently one. It has its population centers, high and low temperatures, economic statistics, educational systems, politics and problems.

Another instance of uniformity is in habits and ways of living. From east to west there are five time zones; Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific (with an hour's advance, nearly but not quite everywhere); but everywhere people get up and go to bed at about the same clock time eat the same kind of food which is bought in the same kind of shops; and have approximately the same pattern of work, rest, and holidays.

The fact that the United States has always been a single economic unit, with no tariffs to limit trade, has led to uniformity. Modern industry supports large organizations, and it is not a surprise, that most of the world's biggest commercial firms are in America. Mass-markets are efficient. They can choose between the products of competing manufacturers.

However, while describing America and the Americans, it would be alluring to believe that the United States is just another country, and try to approach it as such. To take this approach, however, would mean ignoring two crucial problems. First, we all keep in our minds images of America. Most readers, like most tourists, set out in search of America wanting to find what they're looking for, and are disappointed with their guides if they don't find it, like they had envisaged it. Secondly, we all know and certainly feel that America-that dream and promise, myths, legends, and hopes-is something unique. The very subject of America invites to judgments and opinions as no other country does. While coming nearer to America, therefore, we first need to take a closer look at these questions, if we want to know realistically what America is and what it means to be an American.

## THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND?

“ This land is your land” is a well-known refrain from a popular song, that many people learn to play on the guitar, yet America is not “our” land ( unless we are American citizens). Although sometimes it seems to be <sup>1</sup>.

People, born in the second half of the twentieth century, have lived in the informational land with all the modern newspapers and magazines, paperback books and films, radio and television, videos and advertisements of every type creating the images of America and American life. Because of this, many people have the feeling, that they have already been to America, although they have never been there.

Think about how many old and new American movies you’ve seen, and numerous songs you’ve heard sung in American accents. We can’t skip all the articles which appear every day in newspapers and magazines, giving the latest news, trend, or scandal in the United States. Then there are those special TV documentaries on “the American way of life”; many television series, the cops in the big cities, the cowboys in the west, the rich in boardrooms. Popular pulp novels and characters sell well in most countries. There are posters, cartoons, greeting cards, bumper stickers, sweatshirts and T-shirts with their messages, and graffiti.

Amazing is the fact, that we don’t need to listen to an American radio station to hear American music. American television programs are seen on television stations throughout the world; magazines, newspapers, novels, stories are published by advertising firms in many parts of the world to create, show, or sell images of America.

However, it should be, mentioned, that American images and products are not always accepted. In soviet times in Georgia, other ex-soviet republics, or a lot of countries around the world jeans or jazz, rock “n” roll, rap, violent movies, “dangerous” skateboards and roller-blades were forbidden.

It’s, interesting how this everyday contact outside the United States with American reality has affected the vision of what America actually is.

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson. “American Life and Institutions” Washington D.C. 1996  
p. 5**

We doubt if there is anyone among us who has not seen a photo of the New York City Skyline, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Statue of Liberty.

As many images of America are such a common, normal part of cultures outside of America, it is difficult to separate the image from the actual, the regard from the reality.

Even before the enormous influence of television, John Steinbeck stated that “the picture of America and the Americans which is branded on the minds of foreigners is derived in very large part from our novels, our short stories, and particularly from our moving pictures”. And, he felt, while even “the least informed American” was able to separate fact from fiction, daily life from the dream machine of Hollywood, the foreigner too often was unable to do so. <sup>1</sup>

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson. :” American Life and Institutions”. U.S. Department of State. Washington D.C. 20547, 1998, p.6.**



## 2. FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND

Great peculiarity of the United States is its enormous landscapes and skylines. Forty-eight of the fifty states are in the middle of the North American continent between the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. It is about 4800 kilometers from the east coast to the west coast and about 2400 kilometers from the Canadian border on the north to the Mexican border on the south. Hawaii the island state is in the Pacific Ocean, and the state of Alaska is northwest of Canada. A car trip from coast to coast normally takes a minimum of five days without stops <sup>2</sup>. The two main mountain ranges run north and south-the Appalachian Mountains in the eastern part of the United States and Rocky Mountains in the west.

Between them are the Great Plains. The longest river in the United States is the Mississippi. The Missouri and Ohio River flow in to the Mississippi, and the Mississippi flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The major rivers in the western part of the United States are the Colorado and the Rio Grande. The Great Lakes on the northern border of the country are Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, and Lake Ontario. Most of the time the settlers of America didn't have precise geographic knowledge, but they were quite optimistic. Except for Africans, most migrants came to America of their own wish, searching for a better life. So they were biased to think well of the new land. More often, their expectations were fully met.

At the most general level the country was geographically fortunate. Two large oceans protected the United States from political threats in Europe and Asia, and helped to maintain expensive military machines. Huge, wealthy national territory allowed the nation to become self-sufficient in agriculture and most basic minerals. Due to marvelous natural waterways, travel was cheap for goods and people-providing great mobility (geographic and social) unobtainable in most countries.

**2. Douglas K. Stevenson "American Life and Institutions" Washington D.C. 1996, p.7**

As time passed, the American land produced geographic bounty, whose reputation spread in the whole world, and encouraged a flow of migrants, that is showing no signs of diminishing even today. The United States owes much of its wealth to its good fortune in having such a large and diverse landmass. Yet we can observe regional identity of the country, where Americans are associated by certain characteristics, such as New England self-reliance, southern hospitality, Midwestern healthiness, western mellowness.

Six main regions comprise:

-New England, consisting of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

-The Middle Atlantic, made up of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

-The South, which runs from Virginia south to Florida and West as far as central Texas. This region also includes West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and parts of Missouri and Oklahoma.

-The Midwest runs from Ohio to Nebraska, including Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois Minnesota, Iowa, parts of Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Eastern Colorado.

-The South West comprises Western Texas, part of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and the southern interior part of California.

-The West is made up of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. It should be mentioned, that this is not official division; other lineups are possible. This division is offered simply get acquainted with the United States.

## REGIONAL VARIETY

Is it reasonable to talk about American region when practically all Americans can watch the same television shows and go to the same fast-food restaurants for dinner? Giving examples of regional differences could be one way to answer the question. Most of the food Americans eat is standard wherever you go. A package of frozen peas has the same label in Idaho, Missouri, and Virginia; like cereals, candy bars, and many other items come identically packed from Alaska to Florida. Normally, fresh fruits and vegetables are of the same quality. However, each region has its favorites; for example in Georgia you will be served hush puppies (fried dough) or grits (boiled and ground corn) prepared in different ways, but not in New Hampshire, or Nebraska.

Although American English is generally standard, American speech is often different in different regions. Southerners' slow speech is called "Southern drawl"; Midwesterners use "flat" ("bad", flat"); New York City patois (regional dialect) comprises a number of Yiddish words: "schlep", meaning to carry clumsily, or with difficulty, "nosh"-light meal, "nebbish"-a weak-willed, or timid person. This is the contribution of the city's large Jewish population.

## NEW ENGLAND

Despite the fact, that New England doesn't have rich farmland or a mild climate, yet it played the most significant role in American development. Between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, New England was the country's cultural and economic center. The earliest European settlers of New England were English Protestants. Many of them came to seek religious freedom. They provided the region with distinctive political organization-the town meeting (held by church elders) in which citizens discussed issues of the day. Only men of property could vote. Nevertheless, town meetings contributed to New Englanders' unusually high level of participation in government. It was difficult for New Englanders to farm the land, as it was the case in the South, by 1750; many settlers had followed other occupations, like shipbuilding, fishing, and trade. In business sphere New

Englanders earned the reputation for being hard working, practical, economical, and inventive. These characteristics turned out useful as the Industrial Revolution reached America in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, New factories emerged to manufacture such goods as clothing, rifles, and clocks. Most of the money to run these businesses came from Boston, which was the financial center of the nation. New England also supported cultural life. In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century distinguished American literature was created. The region's another strongest legacy is education. Incomparable is its bunch of the top-ranking universities and colleges including Harvard, Yale, Brown, Dartmouth, Wellesley, Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Williams, Amherst, and Wesleyan. Immigrants from Canada, Ireland, Italy and Eastern Europe replaced the original New England settlers, who had migrated westward. Not with standing a changing population, much of the original spirit of New England is preserved .<sup>1</sup> It can be seen in the simple, wood frame houses and white church steeples of many small towns.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, most of New England's traditional industries are moved to states or foreign countries, where labor force is cheaper.

---

**1. Maura Christopher "Portrait of the USA" U.S. Department of State 2001, p. 13**

In a number of factory towns, skilled workers have been left without jobs. The gap has been filled by microelectronics and computer industries.

## **MIDDLE ATLANTIC**

New England supplied the country with educated people-brains and finances for 19<sup>th</sup> century American expansion, whereas Middle states provided power and authority. The region's largest states, New York and Pennsylvania, became centers of heavy industry (iron, glass, steel). The Middle Atlantic region was settled by a wider scope of people than New England.

Dutch immigrants moved into the lower Hudson River Valley in today's New York State. Swedes went to Delaware. English Catholics founded Maryland, and English Protestant sect, the Friends (Quakers), settled Pennsylvania. In the course of time, all these settlements fell under English control, but the region continued to be the attractive place for people of diverse nationalities early settlers were mostly farmers and traders, and the region was kind of a bridge between North and South. Philadelphia in Pennsylvania was home to the Continental

Congress, the convention of delegates from the original colonies, organized the American Revolution. In the same city the Declaration of Independence was created in 1776 and the U.S. Constitution in 1787. The rivers-Hudson and Delaware were transformed into vital shipping lanes. The cities: New York, on the Hudson, Philadelphia on the Delaware, Baltimore on Chesapeake Bay-grew very fast. New York is still the nation's largest city, its financial and cultural center. Like New England, the middle Atlantic region is characterized by relocating, most of its heavy industry elsewhere. Drug manufacturing and communications have replaced them.

## **THE SOUTH**

The South is the most colorful American region. The American Civil War (1861-65) ruined the South socially and economically. However, it retained its unique identity. Southerners were prominent among the leaders of the American Revolution, and four of

America's first five presidents were Virginians. After 1800, however, the interests of the manufacturing North and the agrarian South began to diverge. Slavery was the hottest issue dividing North and South. In 1860, 11 Southern States left the Union with the intention to form a separate nation, the confederate States of America; this caused the Civil War, the Confederacy's defeat, and the end of slavery. Today the South has developed into a manufacturing region, and high-rise buildings are erected in Atlanta (Georgia) and little Rock (Arkansas).

### **THE MIDWEST**

Starting in the early 1800s easterners moved there in search of better farmland; later, Europeans migrated directly there, by passing the East Coast to seek better farmland. Germans to Eastern Missouri, Swedes and Norwegians to Wisconsin and Minnesota. Midwestern is Samuel Clemens, who took the pseudonym Mark Twain, who was inspired by the river Mississippi and wrote the "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". Midwesterners are famous for being open, friendly, and straight forward. The Midwest gave birth to one of America's two major political parties, the Republican Party in 1850s to oppose the spread of slavery into new states. The region's center is Chicago. (Illinois), the nation's third largest city, with the highest skyscraper Sears Tower.

### **THE SOUTH WEST**

This region differs from the Midwest in weather (drier), population (less dense), and ethnicity (strong Spanish American and Native-American components). Outside the cities, much of the land is desert. The Magnificent Grand Canyon is located in this region, as is Monument Valley. There are dozens of Indian reservations in this region: Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Apache. Parts of the Southwest once belonged to Mexico. The

United States obtained this land after the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. The region still has strong Mexican influence <sup>1</sup>.

Dams on the Colorado and other rivers turned once small towns: Las Vegas, Nevada, Phoenix, Arizona, Albuquerque into metropolises. Las Vegas is famous as one of the world's centers for gambling, whereas Santa Fe, New Mexico, is famous as an art center, painting, sculpture and opera.

## **THE WEST**

Despite the fact, that Americans have long considered the West as the last frontier, California has a history of European settlement older than that of most Midwestern states. Spanish priests founded missions along the California coast a few years before the American Revolution.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century California and Oregon entered the Union before many eastern states. This is a part of scenic beauty. In much of the West the population is sparse, and the federal government owns millions of hectares of undeveloped land. These areas are used for recreational and commercial purposes, such as camping, fishing, hiking, boating, grazing, lumbering, and mining. Alaska is a vast land of wilderness protected in national parks and wildlife refuges. Hawaii is the only state in the union in which Asian Americans outnumber European Stock.

Los Angeles-and Southern California have large Mexican-American population. The second largest city of the nation-Los Angeles is the home of the Hollywood film industry. California has become the most populous of all the states.

---

**1. Maura Christopher "Portrait of the USA" U.S. Department of State, 2001, p. 16**

## MOBILITY

### MOVING WEST

From its very beginning as a nation, the “population center of gravity” has been moving westwards. Early settlers left the original British colonies along the East Coast and moved Westwards in lines along the rivers, and then through the mountain passes. The American frontier-that invented line dividing areas with more than two people per square mile from those with fewer-was at one time just on the other side of the Appalachian mountains. Later, it moved to the areas that are today known as the Midwest. Soon it was across the Mississippi. By 1853, the U.S. had acquired the entire western part of the country, by purchase, conquest, and treaty. New states were created as more and more people entered these territories.

In 1890, the frontier was officially declared “closed”. America’s mission to expand her territory across the continent, had been completed. This frontier experience, the settlement of new lands to the west, had continued for about three hundred years. This adventurous experience of first surviving and then cultivating enormous wild land had great impact on the American character. It outlined the American character, strengthened the spirit of independence, self-reliance and self-confidence, encouraged sense of equality: what individuals could do was more important, than who their ancestors were. The frontier set its imprint upon American manners, economics, and society.

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson. “American Life and Institutions”. Washington D.C. 20547, 1998.**



## THE FRONTIER AND THE FAMILY

The frontier has had great effect on mountain men and cowboy's political and social institutions. However the impact of the frontier upon the family is incomparable. In terms of westward migration, family played a special role. For a people, who mistrusted the church, or the state family was the only institution that could be handed over the enterprise of settling the continent. A Christian family was sufficient expression of political and social order. The legislation recognized that settlement had been the business of families since the seventeenth century.

Some families moved west in loosely organized groups, made up of kin or neighbors. They elected leaders and applied the democratic process to the journey west. The government provided little help-no maps or transportation, no tools or agricultural information, no medical services and little protection. Beyond the westward running rivers there was no road. Wagons rutted the way so that one could see a trail. Nevertheless, the lure of "free land" was irresistible. In a wagon train or all alone, a family packed its belongings and its livestock and set off towards the next "empty" space. In 1841, a few hundred families managed to cross the continent in wagons as small as Columbus's Ships. Within twenty years, the overland migration increased to more than a quarter of a million men, women, and children. The Westward journey has been the national epic, the story of heroic men and women. It helped to develop a typical characteristic of Americans. They tend to move easily from one part of the country to another. They seem to settle in and feel quickly at home wherever they go.

America still is a highly mobile society. Between 1985 and 1990, for example, almost 45 percent of the nation's families changed their residence. Half of those who moved stayed within the same country. The remainder moved to a different country or state. Of the over 10 million adults and children who changed geographic regions during that period, 7 million settled in the South and West. In the course of one year (1989-1990) alone, some 41 million Americans moved .<sup>1</sup>

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson. "American Life and Institutions" Washington D.C. 1998, p.28**

## INTERNAL MIGRATION

The balance of population shifted away from the North and East to the South and West. This movement was clearly reflected at California's status, as the largest state with some 30 million people in 1990 (18 million in New York State). The large southwest state of Texas, with 17.3 million people is now the third most populous. In 1940, 11 percent of the total U.S. population lived in the West, 30 percent in the Midwest, 32 percent in the South, and 27 percent in the Northeast. Fifty years later, 21 percent lived in the West, 24 percent in the Midwest, 34 percent in the South, and 20 percent in the Northeast.

From 1980 to 1990 the South and West had 88, 5 percent of the total U.S. population growth. The fastest growing states during that period were Nevada (+50,1%), Alaska (+36,9%), Arizona (+34,8%), Florida (+32,7%), California (25,7%), Texas (+19,4%), Georgia (+18,6%), Utah (+17,9%), Washington (+17,8%), Colorado (+14%), and New Mexico (16,3%). The figures show interesting changes concerning ten largest cities in the U.S. today.

Among the "top ten" cities, six are in the South and West of the U.S.: Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, San Diego, Phoenix, and San Antonio. Their increase in population range from 2 percent (Houston) to 27 percent (San Diego).<sup>1</sup>

## URBANIZATION

Another development that has continued since the founding of the United States is the gradual but definite movement from rural to urban areas, from farms and small towns to the cities and the suburbs. In 1880, about three quarters of all Americans still lived in rural areas. A century later, three quarters (75, 2%) lived in or around urban areas.

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson. "American Life and Institutions". Washington D.C., 1998. p.29**

These urban areas are, of course, not only huge cities or metropolitan areas with millions of people. Only 20 percent of all Americans live in large cities of 500,000 and more. Close to 90 million Americans live in cities of fewer than 1000, 000 inhabitants. In 1990, there were some 19,000 towns with fewer than 50,000 people.

In the past ten years or so, there has also been a noticeable movement out of the central cities to the suburbs. In 1990, in fact, 115 million Americans, 46, 2% of the total population, lived in suburban areas. It would be far too early, however, to talk about a “decline” of the great cities, even those of the North that have lost a substantial number of their middle-class populations. In many of these cities (Boston is a well-known example), downtown areas are being renovated, made attractive, and are thus regaining middle-class inhabitants.

There is also a notable trend toward so-called “urban villages.” These areas are often found outside the central cities, among the suburbs. They act as small city centers, with businesses grouped around a large shopping mall, and usually include offices, entertainment facilities, public services, parks, and health-care centers as well. In some ways, these “mini-cities” represent a change in direction: businesses are now going to where their customers and employees would rather live.

### 3. MEASURING ANOTHER DISTANCE

It has often been remarked that America has no history. This shouldn't be considered a true opinion, if we want to understand the modern nation. Of course there is no American Louis XIV; no Richelieu; no Henry VIII; no Napoleon; no long record of foreign wars; American school children hardly know any great national military hero. Sometimes this gap is filled by mentioning Washington and Lincoln, the Revolution and Civil War. If you ask Americans, the Revolution was not really a revolution. According to them it was only an episode by which they cut political links with their British homeland; links which were already a trivial burden. The Civil War, which they fought among themselves after about a hundred years of independence, was really an important stage from the point of view of the technology of war; it showed the world, that for success in war, skillful leadership and courageous fighting are not enough unless provided with industrial power. For the Americans it confirmed an established doctrine that had just been opposed for the first time: that the United States formed a single nation though it also created resentments that still exist.

The things that are really important in American history are not wars and events of this kind; significant is the process by which first hundreds, then thousands, then millions of people constructed their own society, utilized the natural resources of their country, and created a political system which has been not only stable and flexible, but also tolerant and able to respond to constructive and genuine self-criticism as with Vietnam and later Watergate.

It's controversial to say that French history belongs to the French people, British to the British people. Many think, that their history (or the part which children learn at school) is basically the story of actions and interactions of rulers and great men and women; that in Europe more recently the ordinary people have developed a significance of their own, ;less passive, less controlled from above. In Europe this process has induced revolutionary change. Whereas in American history, the ordinary people have played the leading role from the very beginning. America's past belongs to all the people, and the present and the past can talk to one another. Modern Europeans are, in a way, separated from their past by substantial changes in their systems of values, as they have come to

respect achieved success more than inherited benefits. But America has always valued achievements and intentionally rejected hereditary privilege.<sup>1</sup>

In every society the things that happen in reality often differ from the things that are supposed to happen according to the expected ideals, and this is true of America too. But myths have impact, and the mythology of America is concerned with individual effort, enterprise, adventure, belief in equal respect for all people, equal access to opportunity, objective reward for each person's work.

There is another important factor, which should be taken into consideration when viewing America. American society is the most open and self-critical in the world. This openness and this self-critical tradition can confuse foreigners and is often misunderstood by people who don't know that it is due to tradition and experience, that Americans are both cynics and idealists. Any country that was based on ideals as the United States was, will always measure the distance between where it is and where it should be. Having in mind the statement "all men are created equal", the nation is sorrowfully aware that not all Americans are treated this way. We very often talk about the American Dream. What is the basis of the American Dream? It is based on the distance between the reality of life and the hope for a better one. For millions of immigrants the promise of America was, and still is, not those things are better there, but that they could be. What precisely the American Dream is, has been hotly argued not only by Americans, but by other peoples of the world, meanwhile, there is no mention of any "British Dream", "Canadian Dream", or "Japanese Dream". The debate is about what it means to be an American. The viewpoint is that America is different, or should be. Exactly this belief is the cause of anger; many Americans have for their own country. It is like a continuing civil war, or a family fight: "We said we should do this, then why aren't we doing it?" Very often the most patriotic American is also highly critical of their country. "Americans keep windows open, people should have access to all kinds of information, like all rocket shots, manned and unmanned, have been broadcast live to the world, ending in triumph, or, like Challenger shuttle in tragedy. News and photos of the war in Vietnam, as well as Watergate scandal spread across the world through American agencies.

---

**1. Peter Bromhead, "Life in Modern America" U.S. 1994. p. 13**

Special laws require that the windows be kept open. The Freedom of Information Act (1966) means that anyone, not just American citizen has a right to know about the deeds of the government, whereas this kind of information in most countries is protected by an official secret acts and is not available. At the same time, the Privacy Act (1974) allows all Americans to see whatever information government agencies (federal, state, local) may have on them.

Members of Congress, public officials, President are officially required to have tax statements open to the public eye. As soon as they retire, they can start their memoirs, with real names. There is no law saying that certain numbers of years must first pass after retirement. And the press too is “nosy” with the family fight. Great power and influence do not frighten the media in America, where the “muckraking” approach is quite common. The literature of America has also revealed self-criticism. For example Uncle Tom’s Cabin, The Deer Hunter, Hiroshima, Invisible Man, Babbitt, Grapes of Wrath; all of them became bestsellers in the U.S., and many were made into movies there. Afterwards they were exported across the world, where they were read and discussed.

Many Americans think that such extreme self-criticism, tremendous attention by the media, publicizing scandals-has gone too far and can draw a negative picture of the United States. But the thing is, as long as there is the clash between the ideal and reality in American life, the family fight will be fought in public, for all to see and hear.

## THEY`VE ALL COME TO LOOK FOR AMERICA

The first settlement process of North America from Europe was not fast, quite different from the south. In the few decades after Columbus` journey of 1492, the exploration and then conquest of Mexico and southern continent by Spain and Portugal, gained great importance, stimulated by the gold and other treasures which were excavated there.

John Cabot pioneered two journeys across the North Atlantic. On the first, with a crew of eighteen, he reached Canada. The second expedition with several ships sailed to New York. Cabot was a Venetian who had settled in England and changed his name from

Caboto. The English King Henry VII supported him, and was financed by merchants in Bristol. His expedition met Native Americans and exchanged European goods for furs. Cabot died after the second voyage, and his claim that the lands he had visited belonged to England, was, of course, unreal.<sup>1</sup>

By the 1500s the Spanish and Portuguese had conquered Mexico and parts of the southern continent, had founded two hundred Spanish towns, including most of today's capitals. Missionaries had converted most of the Indians to Christianity. The achievements of the Spanish in the sixteenth century were the result of their exploitation of the native people and the labor of the first slaves from Africa. It is compared to the conquest of Western Europe by the Romans fifteen hundred years before-but probably with more violence and deeper cultural intervention. During the sixteenth century Spanish explorers settled along western and southern coasts of North America and by 1600 had established scattered settlements. In 1609 they built a palace for the government of New Mexico in their new town Santa Fe. The two-thirds of the present United States territory west of the Mississippi became part of the Spanish Empire, except for parts colonized by the French in the eighteenth century (although it didn't last for a long time). Later these territories were possessed by the United States at various dates in the first half of the nineteenth century; there appeared towns with Spanish names (and a few French, e.g. New Orleans).

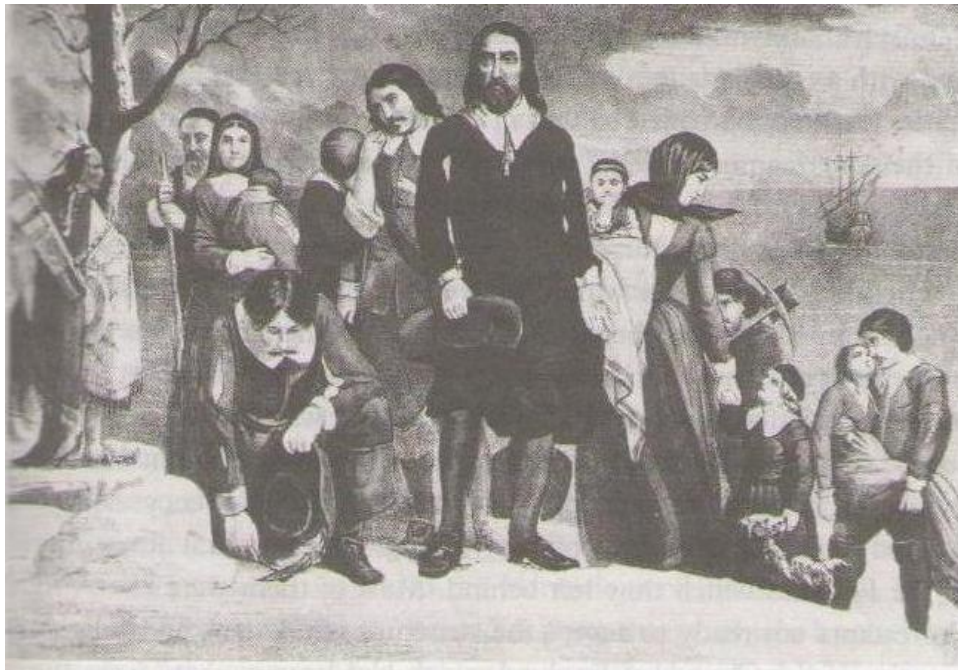
Initial northern settlements were unsuccessful. French Huguenots established themselves on the Atlantic coast of Florida, but were removed by the Spanish, who built a fort and founded the city of St Augustine in 1565. Although it was Spanish for more than two hundred years, it is considered to be the oldest city in the United States. The English made two attempts to colonize North America, but failed in the 1580s. The first group of settlers survived for one year, the second vanished; but in 1607 a London merchant's company gathered a group of men, some of them criminal, released from prison. They landed at a place, which they named as Jamestown, a little way up one of the rivers, which flow into Chesapeake Bay, what is now Virginia, (in honor of the English Virgin Queen Elizabeth I).

---

**1. Peter Bromhead "Life in America". U.S. 1994. p. 15**

The Jamestown settlers were followed by others, and the year of 1620 counted a thousand, including families. The unhappiness of the first groups were replaced by optimism, as settlers were allowed to have their own land and started to grow tobacco. Later than this Virginia settlement, a French colony was established at Quebec, up the St. Lawrence River.

When the Americans start talking about the history of the creation of their nation, they have in mind not so much the miserable, Jamestown settlement, but the English Puritans, now known as the Pilgrim Fathers, who landed on Cape Cod, near Boston, in 1620. As a result of the conflict with the authorities of their country over the refusal to comply with the religious laws, they had spent twelve years in exile at Leyden, Holland.



**The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in America**

There they planned to go to America that was realized, in 1620, when the small ship “Mayflower” took them, joined by others in England, across the Atlantic. In November the “Mayflower” reached Cape Cod, new Massachusetts; they stayed at a place, near modern Boston, which they called Plymouth, after the English port, from which they had sailed. The Pilgrim Fathers had undergone hard times, and only half of them could survive after the first winter months; but the survivors for the first year



managed to live on fish and harvest from the land in the summer, with the help of friendly Native Americans.

After a year from their arrival, another ship came from England, and they celebrated this arrival, and the harvest they had gathered, with a feast of thanksgiving. The anniversary of their thanks giving feast is still celebrated every November. Thanksgiving and Independence Day are the two great occasions for Americans to remember two great events in their national history: foundation, and independence.

Between 1620 and 1640 the Pilgrim Fathers were followed by more settlers in New England. During the same period New Amsterdam was founded on the small island of Manhattan. In 1664 (by that time there were 7,000 people in New Netherlands) the English took over the colony, and changed its name to New York.<sup>1</sup> Although Dutch names still survive, such as Harlem, originally a village in the north of Manhattan Island. In Virginia the settlers were helped by the beginnings of the cruel slave trade, through which English merchants brought slaves from Africa.

By 1682 the Quakers had become the most energetic representatives in England by the Puritan tradition; William Penn, a distinguished English Quaker, led a group of religious supporters to settle in Pennsylvania, with a plan for a central town at Philadelphia. The early adventurers in 1620-40 were religious people, though religion was not the only source of inspiration. Most of them were Protestants not ready to accept religious practice of the Church of England. In England their beliefs were not accepted and sometimes put them in danger. However their individualism was not only religious, but also economic and social. A European middle class, founded on individual enterprise and effort, was developing painfully and more effectively in England and Netherlands than in the rest of Europe. The thought of migration to America was attractive to some of the energetic individualists of the time. When they sailed to America brought with them a decision to build a new society which was free of the bad elements of the old, while preserving those which seemed to them good.

In the eighteenth century the settlements along the coast were organized as thirteen colonies, each with a governor, under British rule.

---

**1. Peter Bromhead, "Life in Modern America". U.S. p.17**

Often relations with populations mainly grew at the expense of the newcomers from Britain, Holland and Germany. When in 1776 the colonies declared their independence, they were mainly British in origin, and later on for some time the British were still the most numerous among the new settlers. However Migrants of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were not brought to America by ideals of the same kind as those which encouraged the Pilgrim Fathers and William Penn. The people from Ireland, Italy, and Poland went to America to escape from unbearable poverty in their own home countries, and they were considered as inferiors by the Americans of earlier generations. Nevertheless, there is still an important element in common among them all. All were against something, which they did not like in their countries and all were prepared to take great risk and face hardships in trying to build a new life for themselves. This fact gives them a common cultural background, and they are conscious of sharing it.

The ideals of the Pilgrim Fathers and those who settled in the northern states were above all individualistic and were egalitarian, based on the idea that all people were equal in the sight of God and should have equal consideration, access. Whereas in the South the plantations produced a social structure. From the beginning many Americans in the North found slavery offensive to their theory, while people in the South not only accepted slavery, but seceded from the Union to preserve it. It took four years of war to bring them back and to free the slaves, although the inequality survived.

Another unfavorable part of the story, concerning both the South and North, is the relationship of the settlers with the Native Americans. By 1492, when Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic from Europe, all Americas were inhabited by the descendants of the original migrants from central Asia. The European explorers called them “Red Indians”.

There is a well-known joke about Columbus, “He didn’t really know where he was going. He didn’t really know he was when he got there. And he didn’t really know where he’d been when he got home again. But he took some real Indians back with him to prove that he hadn’t been to America”.<sup>1</sup>

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson. “American Life and Institutions”,**

**Washington D.C. 1996. p.10**

## 4. WE THE PEOPLE

### A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

Migration is a Latin word and it means the movement of people. Sometimes this is from one country to another, other times it's from one region to another, from rural to the city.

Since the United States has received recurring waves of massive immigration, a focal point of American history has been the incorporation of the foreign born. Main interpretation in American historiography and nationalist ideology had been –rapid and easy assimilation.

Independence did not lead immediately to a great new wave of people. About 150,000 people settled in the United States between 1789 and 1820 or, 5,000 each year. The new arrivals felt themselves as a small number arriving in a settled community, where people, had formed a big majority and had been completely identified with the country. So, there was every reason for them to assimilate quickly. At least, by the fact of going to America they had shown their desire to incorporate themselves in this new community.

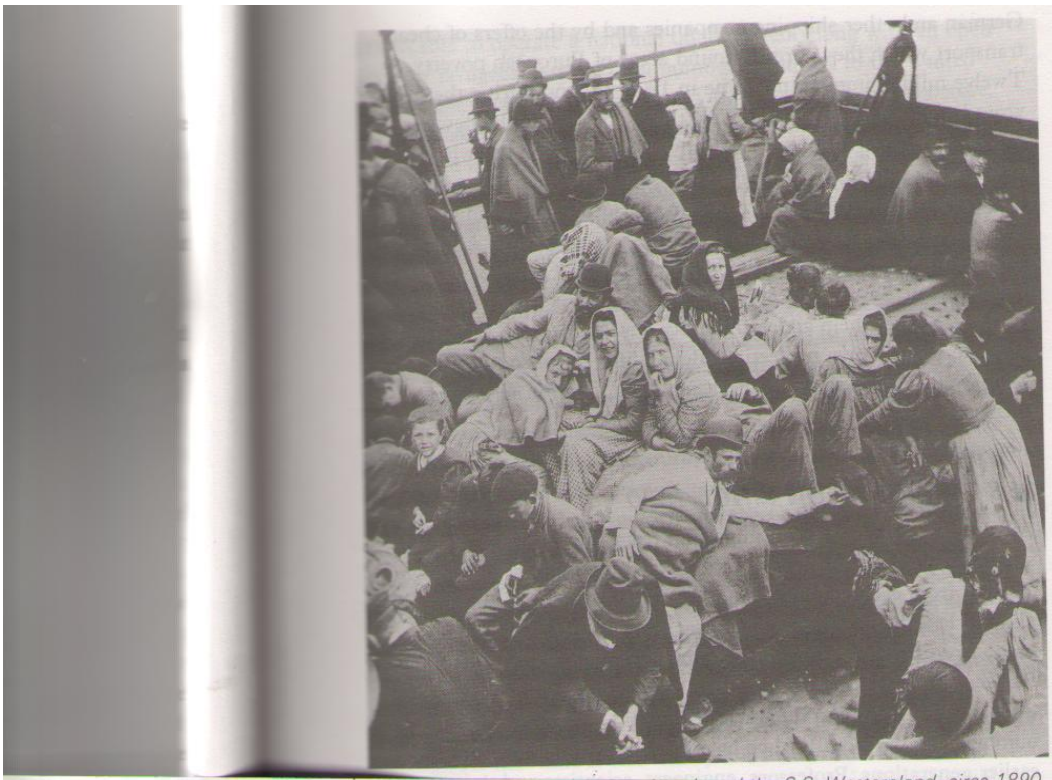
For the most part they came from Great Britain (in 1790 about four-fifths of the white population) sharing language, ideals and objectives with those, who were there before them British ideas and ways of living had been taken to a new environment and adapted to it. Around 1820 the flow of new settlers from Europe began to increase substantially. Between 1820 and 1840 about a million people migrated to the United States, ten times as many as in the previous twenty years. 1820 was a turning point in the flow of migration, but 1840 could be regarded as another one. As the development of steamships made the travel conditions easier, the forty years 1840-80, brought almost ten million migrants to America, or a quarter of a million a year: fifty times as many as in the early years of the century. Many migrants of this period came from Germany, and during the nineteenth century German migration was no less important than that from Great Britain. Great numbers were as well from Ireland, escaping from the poverty and famine

of their own country. Protestant Germans were assimilated easily enough into the English-American society of the time, but the Irish kept themselves isolated. They did not need to learn an entirely new language (though some were Irish-speaking), but they were Catholics, full of animosity and hatred at the domination of their home country by the English, primarily by the English Protestant landlords. As a result of the famine of the 1840s about a million died, whereas another million escaped to England or America. The new Irish-Americans saved money to help their relations to come and join them. Irish immigrants faced hostile prejudice. They were considered as unreliable, and threatened the Protestant domination. Outside the factories one could read notices: "No Irish need apply." Migrants changed not only the homeland, but farm to factories. The process of the industrial development in America was fast from the east coast to Chicago. Although the nineteenth century industrial development in the American cities caused social problems little less harmful than those to be found in England and Germany, there was still a little more possibility to escape from bad conditions; and affluence of minerals, fertility of the land, absence of obstacles to trade fostered the growth of the community wealth so, that it soon outpaced the old European countries.

By the middle of the century the United States had a larger population than any single European country. By 1880 it reached fifty million. By the middle of the nineteenth century the new arrivals had found themselves a small minority in a community, which was settled, meaning that most of its members were descended from several generations of Americans. In 1880 there were large communities, in which most of the adults had been born in Europe. Many of the new arrivals were going after their relatives who had already been established; many had heard about the chance of employment. There were some compact national groups, particularly of Germans, so that whole communities were composed mainly of recently arrived people from Germany. It might have been possible for large areas to become homes for compact ethnic groups maintaining the German language and German customs, and so building up new little Germanies on the American continent, but in reality this never occurred. Germans did preserve their own national identity and lived together, but they were always assimilated into the general pattern of American culture.

The Civil War (1861-65) had impact on the development of national consciousness. The war solved the question of whether the United States should remain one political unit or split into two. Nearly all the people, newly arrived from Europe had settled in the North and could easily identify themselves with the northern position. To them the South was like an alien country, and their contribution in the victory made it possible for them to have a greater awareness of being American.<sup>1</sup>

More than three-quarters of a million people became settlers in 1882. Number of people from northern, then eastern and southern Europe began to grow. One-tenth of the whole population of Sweden and Norway left for America in only ten years, 1881-90. The Swedes were escaping from poverty in a northern European country still dominated by the aristocracy and still economically backward. However the time of the great Swedish migration coincided with the time of the beginning of Swedish industrial development at home, which soon brought Sweden to a standard of living unequalled in the United States. Like the Germans, the Swedes were inclined to move to the Midwest. Their numbers were soon far exceeded by the newly arrivals from Italy, Russia, Hungary and Slav-speaking Eastern Europe, including many Jews escaping from persecution.



---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson, “American Life and Institutions”. Washington D.C. 1996. p. 13.**

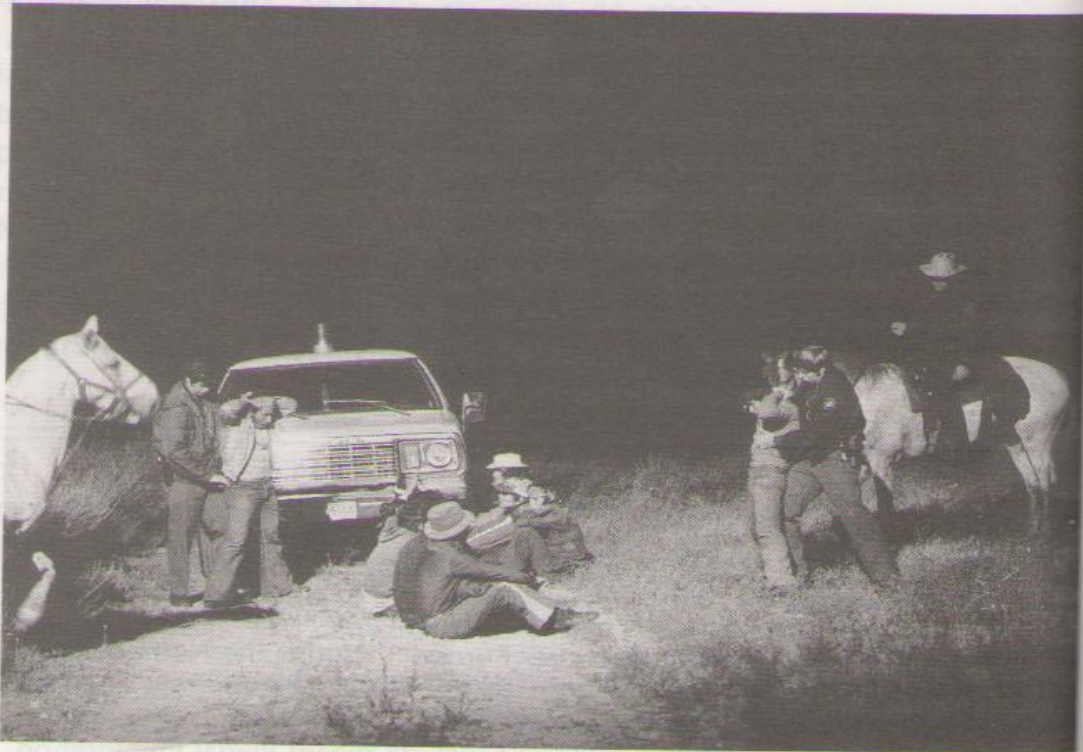
Migration was encouraged by the activities of German and other shipping companies and the cheap transport, which they offered around places of European poverty. Twelve million immigrants came in 1900-14, and during the final years before the First World War, three-quarters of the new arrivals came from Eastern Europe and Italy. They were regarded as inferiors, and they were aware of having started late in race for wealth.<sup>1</sup> It was advantageous to be a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP), and a disadvantage to be a Catholic or a Jew, or from Italy or Eastern Europe. These new groups had to work out self-reliance and the sense of community development on their own for the sake of their own protection. Being different from the established Americans, they found it difficult to get accepted by the society.

---

**1. Peter Bromhead. “Life in Modern America”. p. 27.**



*A random group of Americans.*



*America now guards its borders closely against illegal immigrants.*

## THE “AVERAGE AMERICAN”

The United States is a vast land of great diversity. There are huge variations in the ethnic make up of the nation. The United States has grown from diverse cultural backgrounds. As a result of the presence of various national origins and ethnic variations, America is counted among the world’s largest heterogeneous societies. So, to describe the “average American” is very hard. The majority of Americans may be white, but Americans are not “normally” white. Most Americans are Christians, but America cannot be called “a Christian country”. At the same time a majority of Americans claim European ancestry, but this description does not help us to define an average American.

The United States is one of the few countries, that has no “official” national language. English is the language by use, but not national language by law. 32 million Americans speak a language other than English at home.

## “MELTING POT”, “SALAD BOWL” OR “PIZZA”

The metaphor of the melting pot was once used to refer to American culture. The idea was that all of the different cultures and races who came to America all melted together to become one. This melting did not truly happen though and over the years the metaphor of the stew pot replaced the melting pot. In the stew pot, there is the part of the stew that is the same and ties everything together. Although, within the stew the different parts both melt into the whole stew and retain their own identity. Part of the potato, for example, remains the potato and part melts into the stew. For some people, however the stew pot became unfavorable and was replaced by the idea of the salad bowl, where everything is mixed together, yet preserves its separate identity. Some refer to the salad bowl as a mosaic.

Which is the place where the first “Melting Pot” took place and people were assimilated? A region’s favorable climate presents an opportunity for it to become a melting pot of humanity. According modern approach, this climate may be less physical, consisting of a free society which provides unique opportunities for individuals, such as the United States. In the ancient world, good geographical location attracted people.



From this point of view, Egypt had it, including a fertile land as well as a central location for trade, and according to the sources, the first world “Melting Pot” took place in Egypt”.

As it was mentioned above, America used to be defined as a “Melting Pot” of different countries. Since the first Europeans landed on American soil, this has been a land of mixed origins. The Spanish originally settled in the southern area. The British, German, Irish and other Europeans settled in the Northern area. Because of this diversity, Americans are unique in terms, that majority of them are descended from more than one race or ethnic group. While speaking about “Melting Pot” we have to discuss the immigration process and assimilation.

Assimilation is an intense process of consistent integration when members of ethno cultural group, typical immigrants or other minority groups are “absorbed” into an established, generally larger community. This presupposes a loss of all or many characteristics which make the newcomers different. Assimilation can be voluntary, which is usually the case with immigrants, or forced upon a group as is usually the case, when receiving “host group”. Assimilation can have negative impact on natural minorities, or aboriginal cultures, as after assimilation the distinctive features of the original culture will be minimized and finally disappears. Assimilation very often refers to secularization of religious members of a minority group, especially Judaism. Until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, most Jews were forced to live in small towns and were restricted from entering universities or high level professors. The only way to become successful was to abandon their identification with co-religionists and become “assimilated jaws”. Well-known assimilated jaws of this period include Moses Mendelssohn, Karl Marks and Sigmund Freud, who become dissociated with Orthodox Judaism. Jewish law (halakho) does not recognize children of non-Jewish mothers as Jewish and father, the children of intermarriage may not be raised with a strong Jewish identity and tend to intermarry, themselves.<sup>1</sup>

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson, “American Life and Institutions”. p. 15.**

The idea of multiculturalism is put forward as an alternative to assimilation. This theory is contradictory to the melting pot principle and is described as the salad bowl theory, or as it is known in Canada, the cultural mosaic. In the multicultural approach, each ingredient retains its integrity and flavor, while contributing to a successful final product. In recent years, this approach has officially been promoted in the traditional melting pot societies, such as Australia, Canada and Britain with the intention of becoming more tolerant of immigrant diversity. However, it is difficult to estimate the degree, to which a government can influence the way and extent of integration of immigrants.

Immigration communities in the United States, for example display the impact of both multicultural and “Melting Pot” approaches. On the one hand, an American city might offer voting instruction in multiple languages, to help speakers of minority tongues. On the other hand, the children of these adult speakers, in school, might be given instruction in the English language only. The question of whether to support a “Melting Pot” or multicultural approach has become highly debatable. Many multiculturalists debate that the melting pot theory is a mechanism of intolerants to renounce their cultures in order to be accepted into the mainstream society. Nativists (proponents of the, melting pot theory) on the other hand declare that multiculturalism will only destroy the fabric of society due to the ethnic divisions and economic trouble, that multiculturalism polices create. According to Multiculturalism view of the melting pot theory assimilation can hurt minority cultures by stripping their distinctive features, immigrants lose their original cultural identity and so do their children. Although some multiculturalists agree, that assimilation may occur in a relatively homogeneous society, with a strong sense of nationalism.

Whereas, multiculturalists tend to view the melting pot theory as oppressive, nativists consider it as beneficial to both, government and its people. They believe, that their nation has reached its present state of development because it has been able to form one national identity. They dispute, that separating citizens by ethnicity or race and affording immigrant groups “special” privilege” can harm the very groups they are intended to help. By calling attention to differences between their groups and majority, the government may promote resentment between them, and cause the immigrant group

to turn inward and avoid mainstream culture. Nativists also argue that multicultural policy of immigration won't work in an area, in which the supply of immigrants from the third world countries is limitless. With immigrants often coming from multiple origins, it may be expensive to meet their needs.

One way or other, of all many different nationalities, some (most Europeans) have quickly assimilated and have become Americanized. Other Americans, while becoming American in other ways, maintained much of their ethnic identities. In this case, U.S. society has been likened to a "salad bowl". However, it doesn't mean, that Americans are less proud of their American nationality. For example, the loyalty of Japanese-Americans was doubted in the World War II by many Americans, as a group they become the most highly decorated American soldiers fighting in Europe. Presumably, a better metaphor for American society than either "the melting pot", or the "salad bowl", would be "pizza" (which has become the single most popular food in America). The different ingredients are often visible and give the whole its particular taste and flavor, yet all are combined into something larger.

Another important factor should be taken into consideration that the face of America is constantly changing. It is considered, that by the year 2050, Hispanics (Spanish-speaking Americans, Mexican-Americans, or "Chicanos", Puerto Ricans, etc.) will be the largest "minority" in the U.S. They will make up 21 percent of the total population (81 million people), followed by 16 percent of Blacks.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The Constitution of the United States says, that a nation wide census, "a head count" of all Americans must be taken every ten years. The census determines what changes there might have been in the population. The number of Representatives each state can elect to the House of Representatives, for example, is determined by population. So, the figures are very important in establishing how much money from federal taxes will be returned to the states. The total number of Americans in 1990, about 80 percent considered themselves "white", 12 percent "Black", 9 percent "Hispanic", etc. Attention

should be paid to “Considered themselves” as all these figures were based upon “self-identification”, Americans themselves determined with which groups they wished to be identified. As an American, you are what you say you are. <sup>1</sup>

<b>Resident Population by Race and Spanish Origin (1990 Census)</b>		
Population	Number	% of Total
Total	248,710,000	100
White	199,686,000	80.2
Black	29,986,000	12.0
Hispanic	22,354,000	8.99
Asian or Pacific Islander	7,274,000	2.9
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	1,959,000	0.79
Other races	9,805,000	3.9
Hispanics may be of any race.		
Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States 1993.		

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson, “American Life and Institutions”. p. 18**

## 5. CHANGING PATTERNS OF IMMIGRATION

The Immigration patterns are constantly changing. Between 1861 and 1960, the majority of immigrants came from Europe. But during the past 25 years the immense portion came by Latin America and Asia. If in 1990 112, 400 immigrants were legally admitted from Europe, by contrast, legal immigration from Central and South America (Mexico, the West Indies, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia) was 232,000 (Philippines, China, Vietnam, Korea, and India).

When speaking about the legal immigration, today it has reached the highest point. From 1981-1990, 7, 3 million immigrants of all kinds were admitted. No one really knows how many illegal Americans are already in the U.S. and how many enter each year. At the same time it is not known how many “undocumented migrants” have entered the country legally on tourist visas and stayed on. One thing is clear: European heritage of America is undergoing a major change, for more and more people from Latin America and Asian countries enter U.S. society.

### IMMIGRATION LAWS

Until the 1850s, immigration to the U.S. had been unrestricted, with about 90 percent of all immigrants coming from Europe. In 1920s immigration was limited and quotas were set for Asian countries and southern and eastern Europe. In 1965 this quota system was abolished. A new immigration law, issued in 1986, had two main conditions. First, it offered legal status to those illegal foreigners who could prove, that they had been in the U.S. since 1982. As a result 2.5 million illegals had applied before the deadline in 1988. The other part of the 1986, law levied stiff penalties on American businesses, which employed illegal immigrants. However, by the 1990s this part of the statute did not work.<sup>1</sup>

## **1. Douglas K. Stevenson “American Life and Institutions”. p. 22.**

A new immigration statute, the Immigration Act of 1990, has been acknowledged as the most complete amendment since the immigration act of 1965. It includes the following changes: a) the number of immigrant visas each year was raised by 200,000 each year, and thereafter by 175,000 each year. b) although the family reunification policies of earlier laws still remain, the vast majority of permanent visas go to relatives of those, already in the U.S. c) more “occupation” visas will also be granted. D) the attitude towards those, who could not be admitted as immigrants (communists, for example) is changed-they are no longer excluded.

### **WHY THEY CAME – WHY THEY COME**

Wars, revolutions, starvation, persecutions, cause changes in the pattern of immigration. About a million Irish immigrated to America between 1846 and 1851 in order to escape starvation and disease in Ireland. Large number of European immigrants of this period escaped political persecution in their country; but the largest flows of European immigrants came between 1900 and 1920. At other times, during the Depression and during World War II, smaller number of immigrants came to the U.S. Since the 1960s, more and more people have escaped the poverty and wars in Asia and Latin America in the hope of improving life in the United States. Although the slavery was abolished, neither North nor the South escaped social, economic, political, and moral problems that are the heritage of slavery. Paradoxically, countries that were the greatest slave trading nations, such as Portugal, Spain, and England, have escaped the consequences, which almost all Americans have come to accept as theirs. At the same time, Americans are in the know of the fact, that although most of their ancestors came to America by choice, a great number came in chains.

It should be mentioned, that the large numbers of immigrants, and specific immigrant groups, are not welcomed by all Americans. Even 65 percent of Hispanics feel, that there are too many immigrants. Americans fear, that immigrants will take away jobs from them and the larger number from poorer countries will increase poverty and

crime. Some complain, that acceptance of different languages has gone too far, for example Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, French, German, Greek, Hindustani, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, etc. And in California, you can take the written part of your driver's license exam in any of them.

Still moral questions associated with immigration remain. Many illegals are living in poverty. If you are an American, whose ancestors were poor, it's hard to say "no" to such people. To stop coming of the huge number of immigrants is easier to demand than to do. Whether they are wanted or not, they continue to come. America's tradition, as a nation of immigrants is not likely to end. It's doubtless, that immigration has brought enormous benefits to America and all immigrants have provided some "typical" American characteristics, such as willingness to take risks and strive for the unknown with independence and optimism.<sup>1</sup>

A persistent theme of American history has been that of the integration of the foreign born into the body politic and social fabric of the country. Ethnic groups in modern settings are constantly recreating themselves, and ethnicity is continuously being reinvented in response to changing realities both within the group and the host society. The renegotiation of its "traditions" by the immigrant group presumes a collective awareness and active decision-making as opposed to the passive, unconscious individualism of the assimilation model. In inventing its ethnicity, the group sought to determine the terms, modes, and outcomes of its accommodation to "others." We conceive of this as a process of negotiation not only between immigrant group and dominant culture – The Anglo-American, but among various immigrant groups as well.

## **Scots, English and Irish in Buffalo, New York, 1840s and 1850s**

Buffalo was America's principal inland port and the world's largest grain shipping center in the mid-nineteenth century. Its dynamic economy served as a magnet for both internal migrants and foreign immigrants. By 1860, when it was the nation's tenth largest city, approximately 75 percent of its people were recently arrived immigrants. About half the foreign-born population were German-speakers, and another 30 percent were from the British Isles, including Ireland.

They lived, worked, voted, prayed, intermarried, and took their leisure with native white American Protestants, who welcomed them into their ranks on the basis of common standards of living, skills, levels of education, language, religions, and habits of daily life. They had no organized group life other than two voluntary associations, the Scottish St. Andrew's and the English St. George's societies, both of which engaged in some informal charity, but existed principally to sponsor annual dinners to commemorate the birthdays of the patron saints of their respective homelands in the British Isles.

Under these circumstances, the annual celebratory banquets commemorating the two saint's days (April 23 for St. George; November 30 for St. Andrew) were heavily loaded with emotional and political significance. In both England and Scotland, these saint's days had been marked, but they were more acknowledged than celebrated, and nothing near as central as they would be in the British diaspora. The principal expressive symbol of this new tradition was the seemingly endless toasting, by which the evening progressed into drunk fellowship, and more specifically, the subjects of the toasts themselves.

The Scots and English in Buffalo were relatively small in number—at most, some 2000 by 1860. They were concentrated in no particular neighborhood, and were too small.

Militant and ideological, the toasts invited the celebrants to recall the happy (and much idealized) village scenes of their youth and to defend their homelands in the face of



unjust criticism or oppression. Hours were spent in this activity, and everyone among the dozens of men present was expected to raise his glass and propose a toast.

When an American, after reading in a newspaper that Queen Victoria had been toasted before the American president at a St. Andrew's Day Banquet, angrily criticized the local Scots for a lack of concern for their new, American homeland, the paper's editor, who was himself a St. George's Society member, explained that there was no need to make something threatening of the proceedings. The Scots on their saint's day and the English on theirs, he said, in effect became Scots and English, but when the day was over, they were again ordinary Americans.

The Buffalo Irish were much larger in number (about 18,000 by 1860). They were lower in social status and were plunged in poverty, but they attained considerably greater solidarity and a high degree of institutional completeness, and they did so early in their American career. Although this solidarity is one of the characteristics by which Irish Americans have come to be understood in American historiography, it may not be taken for granted simply as the heritage of European experience. Though the circumstances of colonization and oppression lead to expressions of national solidarity. Rebellions episodically occurred in Ireland against British repression of native Irish culture and the Catholic religion, the Irish in Ireland were a divided people. City against countryside, class against class, and region against region, were sources of tension that weakened the national liberation struggle.

Irish-American leadership faced the task of overcoming these well-established divisive forces, while simultaneously meeting a number of other pressing, practical challenges, the overcoming of which also seemed to require unity. First, there was the problem of the liberation of the homeland, which became all the more critical an issue after the socially devastating potato famine of the 1840s. Second, over the security of the American Catholic church. Preoccupation with homeland affairs and unswerving devotion to the Catholic church led to charges that the Irish had no loyalty to the United States and were a subversive force that would assist the Pope in destroying the American republic. Third, there was the poverty experienced by a largely

unskilled people, almost exclusively engaged in the secondary labor market and frequently underemployed.

The synthesis of ideas and strategies Irish-American ethnic leaders in Buffalo and throughout the United States created to confront these challenges was a powerful work of obligations to Ireland and aspirations in America. Irish came to commemorate it in America, St. Patrick's Day was a cultural invention. In Ireland the day had been marked as a holy day, not celebrated as a holiday. In America, it came to be a vast, largely secular celebration of ethnicity with parades, dances, banquets, and communal liquor drinking.

The banquet was the highpoint of the day for the higher status Irish. The principal symbolic and most time-consuming activity at this new tradition, the banquet, was the toasting. Here, too, toasting offered a forum for the formulation of goals and of a self-concept for the emerging group. In analyzing the toasting, we may trace the formulation, from year to year, of the ideological synthesis that guided Irish ethnicization. Toasts alternated between militant declarations of hostility to British rule, tributes to the Catholic church and the selfless dedication of its clergy, and expressions of loyalty to the United States. Heroes of Irish rebellions and protest mobilizations were compared to the American Founding Fathers in an effort to tie together into one set of ideals loyalty to Ireland, to Catholicism, and to the United States. Like the Scots and the English, but even more so, the Irish had so arranged their conception of themselves through this new tradition of public self-representation that the more Irish they were, the more American they became.

## **CONTRIBUTION OF THE CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.**

We concentrate on this topic, as Chinese immigration, especially of the period from 1965 to the present, has played enormous role not only in the U.S. but in numerous countries of the world, Georgia among them. Chinese immigration can be divided into three periods: 1845-1882, 1882-1965, and 1965 to the present. The first period began after the California Gold Rush and ended abruptly with the passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. During this period thousands of Chinese, mostly young male

peasants, left their villages in the rural countries to become laborers in the American West. Throughout the second period (1882-1965), only diplomats, merchants, students, and their dependents were allowed to travel to the United States. Otherwise, Chinese Chinatowns were confined to segregated ghettos, called Chinatowns in major cities, and isolated regions in rural areas. The Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, particularly the enactment of the Nationality Act of 1965 brought in a new era in Chinese American immigration. Under the new laws, thousands of Chinese people came to the United States each year to reunite with their families and young Chinese Americans got mobilized to demand racial equality and social justice.

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson “American Life and Institutions”. p. 24.**

Chinese immigrants settled in the nation’s major Chinatown, especially in San Francisco and in New York City. About 60 percent of all Chinese immigrants went to New York State or California. By 1990 New York had three Chinatowns: the first was Manhattan, the second (mainly composed of immigrants from Taiwan) in the borough of Queens, and the third, smaller Chinatown-in Brooklyn.

Chinese cuisine is a very important part of the Chinatowns. Many types of food and items related to Chinese food have been introduced to the American society and used at the present time. Chinese tea was a popular beverage in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in America. Since 1960s, Chinese cuisine has been an integral part of the American diet as well. Chinese restaurants are found in every, Chinatown of New York. Key ingredients for preparing Chinese food are now available in all chain supermarkets and lessons in Chinese cooking are common parts of national televisions. In 1965 Chinese Americans founded Chinese-American Planning Council. CPC’s mission is to improve the quality of life of Chinese Americans in New York by providing access to services and integration into the American mainstream. Essentially the Chinese are concentrated in four general areas of employment: the garment industry, the restaurant industry, the ethnic niche, and mainstream occupations. In many respects, the motivations for the Chinese to come to the United States are similar to those of most immigrants. Some came to “The Gold Mountain” others came to the United States to seek better economic opportunity. There

were others that were forced to leave China either as contract laborers or refugees, Chinese brought with them their language, culture, social institutions and customs, and tried to become an integral part of the United States population. 15,000 Chinese were employed by the Central Pacific Railroad Company to construct the Transcontinental Railroad. Great number of railroads the Chinese built, helped open rich resources in many states. As mining and railway construction dominated the Western economy, Chinese immigrants settled mostly in California; but as these industries declined and anti-Chinese feelings escalated the Chinese fled into import-export businesses and service manufacturing industries in such cities as San Francisco, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago.

Very few Chinese Americans now wear traditional Chinese clothing. On Chinese New Year's Day, elders sometimes wear traditional Chinese formal clothes to greet guests. Sometimes Chinese styles find their way into American high fashion and Hollywood movies. Most Chinese Americans today observe the major holidays of Chinese lunar calendar.

#### **a) CHINATOWN, MANHATTAN**

Facing discrimination and new laws, which prevented participation in many occupations on the West Coast, some Chinese immigrants moved to the East Coast cities in search of employment, which included laundries and restaurants. Chinatown started on Mott Street, Park, Pell streets, east of the notorious Five Points district. By 1870, there was a Chinese population of 200, by 1900-7,000 residents, out of which only 200 were women. The early period of Chinatown was dominated by Chinese "tongs" (associations), which were a mixture of clan associations, landsman's associations, political alliances and crime syndicates. The associations gave protection due to anti-Chinese racism. They were equaled with a street gang.

Much of Chinatown works in an underground economy, where wages are below the required minimum wage and transactions are done in cash to avoid paying taxes. This underground economy is responsible for employment of large numbers of new immigrants, who lacked the language skills to seek better jobs. Manhattan's Chinatown is both a residential area as well as commercial area. Besides 200 restaurants in this area for employment, there are still some factories. The fashion industry has kept some garment

work in the local area, though most of the garment industry has moved to China. The local garment industry now concentrates on quick production in small volumes and piecework (paid by the piece), which is generally done at the worker's home. Much of the population growth is due to immigration (350,000 residents). After the immigration laws of 1965, the population of Chinatown sharply increased. In 1970s, little Italy was absorbed. In 1990s, Chinese people began to move into the Western Lower East Side which 50 years earlier was populated by Eastern European Jews and 20 years earlier was occupied by Hispanics. As previous generations of immigrants gain language and education skills, they move to better housing and job prospects in the suburbs and outer boroughs of New York.

#### **b) CHINATOWN IN QUEENS**

Downtown flushing is the largest urban center in Queens, home to the largest Chinatown in New York City. It's home to a middle class and blue-collar community, and is wealthier than Chinatown in Manhattan. Many arrivals are from Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and even Latin America.

#### **c) CHINATOWN IN BROOKLYN**

"Brooklyn's Chinatown", the city's third largest Chinese community is situated along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 42<sup>nd</sup> to 62<sup>nd</sup> street. Some consider the reason the Chinese settled on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue is, because in Chinese folklore, the number eight is lucky for financial matters. You can trace Chinese businesses, grocery stores, restaurants, Buddhist temples, video stores, bakeries, community organizations, even Hong Kong Supermarket on the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **AMERICAN CHINESE CUISINE**

American Chinese cuisine relates to the style of food served by Chinese restaurants in the United States. This type of cooking typically satisfies Western tastes and differs significantly from the cuisine of China. Some restaurants advertise their status by writing "Western Food" on their signs in Chinese, or by using the term Chinese

American in their signs. Canadian Chinese cuisine is quite similar to American Chinese cuisine.<sup>1</sup>

---

**1. The World Book Encyclopedia (1995) China. World Book, Inc. VOL 3.**

## 6. RELIGION



### Major American Religions

Christianity (belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ) has always been the dominant American faith. Today, about 86% of Americans are Christian (approximately 59% Protestant and 27% Catholic). However, this is a nation with great religious diversity. American Christians are divided into many different groups, including Roman Catholic, the various national denominations of the Eastern Orthodox churches, and hundreds of different Protestant denominations and sects. The largest Protestant groups are the Southern Baptist Convention, the United Methodist Church, and the National Baptist Convention. Among the non-Christian religions, Judaism is the largest, with roughly 2% of the population. In addition, the U.S.A. has a great variety of other religions, including

about 5 million Muslims, nearly 2 million Buddhists, and about 800,000 Hindus. Americans are proud of their nation's religious diversity and of the religious freedom that all enjoy.

Perhaps the greatest influence that Protestantism has had on American life comes from its philosophy regarding a person's relationship to work. This philosophy—commonly called the Protestant work ethic—stresses the moral value of work, self-discipline, and personal responsibility. According to this ethic, people prove their worth to themselves and to God by working hard, being honest and thrifty, and avoiding luxury, excessive pleasure, and waste. The accumulation of wealth is not considered evil unless it leads to a life of idleness and sin. The Protestant work ethic has much in common with capitalism and with the American emphasis on financial success, practicality, efficiency, and self-sufficiency.

Two interesting Protestant groups founded in the U.S. are the Mormons and the Christian Scientists. The Mormons (officially known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) were organized in New York in 1830. Because it was customary for Mormon men to have more than one wife, Mormons were forced out of several established communities. They traveled westward and settled in the unpopulated valley of the Great Salt Lake in Utah, where they built a successful community. Then the federal government passed laws against polygamy and refused to admit Utah as a state until 1896, after the Mormons discontinued this practice. Today, there are 4.8 million Mormon church members in the U.S. Most of them live in Utah and in eastern Idaho, where they are the major religious sect.

The Christian Science Church was founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879. Christian Scientists believe that healing of sickness results from spiritual understanding rather than standard medical treatment. The Christian Science movement now has about 3,000 congregations in 57 countries. About two-thirds of these are in the U.S.

Another interesting Protestant group is the Amish.<sup>1</sup> Originally from Switzerland, this group (about 40,000 people) is now centered in the U.S. and Canada. Within the U.S., they have developed farming communities in 23 states, mostly in Pennsylvania and the midwestern states of Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, and Illinois. The Amish are easy to spot. Their clothing is old-fashioned and plain. The men have beards and wear wide-brimmed hats and the women wear long dresses and bonnets. Jewelry and buttons are not allowed. The Amish travel in horse-

---

<sup>1</sup> Ruth Hoover Seitz. "Amish Country". Spain, 1988.

drawn wagons because their religion forbids them to use cars. They have no telephones or electricity in their homes. Amish children are educated through eighth grade only and are trained to be farmers.

The combined Protestant groups form the largest religious body in the United States. But Roman Catholicism is by far the largest unified religious group. Since many Catholics send their children to parochial (private religious) schools, Catholic funds have helped to build thousands of elementary and secondary schools, plus many fine colleges and universities. Catholics have also played a prominent role in American politics. However, not until 1960, when John F Kennedy was elected president, did a Catholic hold the highest office in the land.

The largest non-Christian religion in the United States is Judaism. There are about 6 million Jews in the U.S. They belong to three major groups: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. During the Sabbath, observed from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday, Orthodox Jews do not work, and they travel only on foot. Jewish tradition imposes certain dietary restrictions, prohibiting pork, certain seafoods, and the serving of milk products at meals that include meat or poultry.

The Jewish people are relatively few in number in the U.S. and worldwide, but their intellectual and cultural contributions have been very great indeed. Among the great twentieth-century musicians, for example, were many Jewish violinists, pianists, and composers. American Jews have also been prominent lawyers, judges, authors, and doctors. Twentieth-century thought was greatly influenced by the original ideas of three European-born Jews: Karl Marx (the founder of communism), Albert Einstein (one of the founders of the Atomic Age), and Sigmund Freud (the founder of psychoanalysis).

Two other religions of significant size in the U.S. are Islam and Buddhism. Islam is the second-largest religion in the world (after Christianity). The word Islam means both “surrender” and “peace.”

The name refers to the peace that comes from surrendering to the will of God. Worldwide, Islam has about 1 billion followers in many different countries. It is the religion preached by the prophet Muhammad, an Arab born in Mecca about a.d. 570. Believers in Islam are called *Muslims*. During the month of Ramadan, the ninth month in the Muslim lunar year, Muslims are required to fast (not eat or drink) from sunrise to sunset. At the end of this period, they celebrate a three-day festival, the Breaking of the Fast (Bairam). Buddhism is the



religion founded by Siddhartha Gautama (who was given the title Buddha, which means “enlightened one”). Americans take great interest in ideas from Eastern religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism, which is the dominant religion in India. Many have found great benefits in meditation. Many are fascinated by the idea of reincarnation (the transference of a soul from one living being to another).

## Religion and Government

Many immigrants came to the American colonies to escape religious persecution. Therefore, it was natural that the nation’s founders demanded legal guarantees of religious freedom. The First Amendment to the Constitution forbids the establishment of an official national religion and prohibits governmental assistance to religious groups. It also prohibits state or federal interference with religious institutions or practices.

Separation of church and state has been interpreted to mean that any institution supported by the federal government or a state government must be free from the influence of religion. In many communities where Christian symbols (such as scenes depicting the birth of Christ) once decorated public buildings, citizens have filed lawsuits claiming that the presence of these symbols on public property is unconstitutional. There have been many other arguments about exactly what violates separation of church and state. Can a state government spend public funds to bus children to parochial schools? Can parents who send their children to parochial schools receive tax credits because they are not using the public schools? These matters are often hotly debated in legislative bodies, courtrooms, school districts, and election campaigns.

And what about prayer in the public schools? At one time, it was common for schools to begin the school day with a prayer. But atheists (people who don’t believe in any God) objected, saying that required time for prayer violated separation of church and state. The government, they said, must not support any particular religion. But, in addition, it must avoid imposing upon people the idea of religion itself, the belief that a supernatural being influences human destiny. In 1963, the Supreme Court banned compulsory prayer in public schools. After that, it was assumed that any worship in public buildings was forbidden. However, in recent years, American high school students have been allowed to organize prayer clubs just as they are allowed to form other

extracurricular special-interest groups. But these prayer sessions must be voluntary, student-run, and conducted outside of class time.

Of course, religious people want their government to behave in ways that their religion considers moral. When the laws of a religion and the laws of the state contradict each other, heated arguments develop. The best example is the issue of abortion. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court said that states could not make abortion illegal. Thus began the continuing struggle between those who are “pro-choice” (those who believe that a woman should have the legal right to end a pregnancy] and those who are “pro-life” (those who consider it murder to abort a human fetus). At present, abortion in the early months of pregnancy is legal in the U.S. But members of the “religious right” (more conservative religious people) continue to push for a change in this Supreme Court decision and often demonstrate outside medical clinics that perform abortions.

Although Americans strongly believe in separation of church and state, the vast majority have always been believers in God. Therefore, although it may seem inconsistent, many official American ceremonies and documents make reference to God. Sessions of Congress and state legislatures begin with prayers. The national motto (printed on U.S. money) is “In God We Trust.” The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag calls the United States “one nation under God.” These examples reflect the general American attitude—that there is a God, but that people are free to believe in God or not and to worship in whatever way they choose.

## **Are Americans Religious?**

History tells us that as societies become more industrial and more technological, they also tend to become more secular (less religious). This has happened to some extent in the U.S. but probably less so than in Europe. Roughly two-thirds of American adults are members of a church or synagogue. However, only about 40% to 45% say that they attend religious services on a weekly basis. What about the younger generation? Responses to a study of more than 1,000 children (ages 6 to 14) revealed that 95% believe in God, almost 50% go to religious services weekly, and about 80% pray. According to another poll, 90% of Americans believe in God, and 80% believe in life after death.

Generalizations about what religion really means to Americans are quite difficult to

make. Religious participation varies immensely depending on many factors, including race, age, social class, economic condition, amount of education, and region of the country. For example, African-Americans attend church in greater numbers than any other race, with about 53% reporting attendance within the prior week. Older people, married people with children, and middle-income people are also more regular church - goers than younger people, single people, the poor, and the rich. States such as Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Alabama report higher weekly church attendance than other areas of the country. These states are in the area of the country commonly called the *Bible Belt*. Many people in this area are religious fundamentalists—that is, they believe in the literal truth of the Bible. Also, they take their religion very seriously, so their religious views influence their attitudes toward many secular matters.

Clearly, many people who believe in God do not participate much in organized religion. Still, religion is important in several ways. It provides a personal identity, social contacts, and important rituals. Social groups, close friendships, and marriages are often formed with members of one's own religion. (However, intermarriage is increasingly more common.) In the U.S., religion provides the customs and ceremonies that mark life's most important events—the naming of a baby, coming-of-age ceremonies, weddings, and funerals. Perhaps most important, many religions promise the believer some form of internal life, which is a great comfort, especially to the old and the sick.

The major American religions also provide the comfort of a personal God to turn to in times of trouble. However, Americans have never believed in simply waiting for God to solve their problems. In the U.S., religious faith lives side by side with a strong belief in free will and an admiration of self-reliance. Ben Franklin (the great eighteenth-century writer, inventor, and statesman) said, "God helps them that help themselves." During World War II, this same idea was expressed in the saying, "Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition." Americans do not believe in accepting misfortune as God's will. They count on their own actions to improve the quality of life. Some turn to their religious leaders for advice in dealing with family problems or making important decisions in their lives. But secular advisers such as psychiatrists and psychologists have mostly taken over the counseling role.

If organized religion can fulfill so many human needs, why have so many people

rejected it? Some feel that science now answers many questions that were once explained only by religion. (But many scientists are themselves religious and argue that the beauty and order of the universe are evidence of a divine creator.) Some point to all the pain and suffering in the world and say that if a personal, all-powerful God really existed, human life would be less painful. (Believers respond that God doesn't cause the cruelty that people show to one another.) Some people believe in God but dislike the rigid rules of organized religion. Many religions require followers to give up certain pleasures. Some people see no purpose in the willpower required. Finally, there is great competition for people's limited amount of leisure time, and many people prefer other activities to sitting in church.

Those who do make it to religious services regularly now have a new argument to make to their absent friends. Research has revealed that people who attend church services regularly live longer and enjoy better mental and physical health. Why? Two of many possible reasons are these: Churchgoing provides social support, and religious faith reduces stress. And less stress is something nearly all Americans seek and need.

## Freedom of Religion

The civil society should be "wholesomely neutral" in respect to religion- so the United States Supreme Court has interpreted the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. That amendment was designed to keep the Congress from doing anything to establish religion by law or to prohibit its free exercise. <sup>1</sup>

All through the history the American people have sustained their churches and ministers, their priests and rabbis. Religion in America has never been identified with an oppressive or dominant social class or set of political institutions. The Pilgrim Fathers, and their followers, left Europe to be free to worship in their own way, not as the established authorities told them to. Most people want to identify themselves with dominant values, and going freely to the church of one's choice is a way of doing so, and gaining acceptance in the face of a subtle demand for conformity.

---

1. Lather S. Luedtke. "Making America". Washington, D.C. 20547, 1996. p.302



**Sacrificing Rights**

*Animal sacrifice is a central ritual in the Afro-Caribbean-based religion of Santeria. The Miami suburb of Hialeah banned such sacrifices, and a Santeria church in Hialeah challenged the local law. In a 1993 ruling, the Supreme Court sided with the church. Animal sacrifice for religious purposes is protected by the First Amendment free-exercise clause.*

The church, at the same time, is a place where people can meet others with whom they would like to make friends. People go to church and it helps them to feel that they have a place in a community. America is extraordinary now, as in the past, for its attachment to the principle of freedom of belief or disbelief. So far as the early Americans had escaped from religious persecution in their old countries, they were determined that there would be no religious oppression in the new home they were building. The builders of the original colonies had been refugees from the established religions of the European countries from which they came. One of the earliest tests of the First Amendment came when state legislatures responded to demand from religious groups to keep Sunday holy by passing laws restricting work or sport on Sunday. The Supreme Court ruled that such laws were unconstitutional. Except Christmas, an ancient and customary mid-winter feast, there are no religious public holidays, and controversial rulings of the Court have forbidden prayers in public schools. The First Amendment provided ensured freedom from persecution for the new waves of Catholic immigrants in the nineteenth century, and later for the Orthodox from Greece, Eastern Europe and

America. Protestants had, and still have, a feeling of cohesion arising from their minority status.

## PROTESTANTS

Almost all Americans adhere to the various branches of religion, Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, or Jewish brought from Europe by the immigrants. The people of the original thirteen states in 1787 were nearly all Protestants, as are nearly three-quarters of the people now. The biggest single Protestant denomination, that of the Baptists, which has complex Anglo-Dutch origins, stretches from the Carolinas to Texas. Black and white Baptist congregations are still separate. Many black churches have been centers of the struggle for black people's rights, whereas white congregations of the Southern Baptist Convention are conservative in their politics, and fundamentalist in basing their religion on the Bible.

If the Roman Catholic Church is the single largest denomination, with about 57 million members, there are approximately 79 million Americans who might call themselves "Protestants". They are distributed among many different, independent churches. There is no one church or church group that speaks for all Protestants. Each group supports itself. It employs its own ministers, constructs its own buildings, and follows its own beliefs.

## CATHOLICS

A quarter of all Americans are Catholics, almost all originated from immigration from Catholic countries, first from Europe, also from the former lands of the Spanish Empire. Despite the fact, that they are more numerous than any single Protestant group, Catholics have always been aware of the minority status both of their religion and of the ethnic group to which they belong.

They derive cohesion from this feeling, which promotes intermarriage and maintenance of their religious attachment. They strive to support their church financially.

The Basilica in Washington is the nation's biggest church building, nearly as big as St. Peter's, Rome, and is surrounded by a Catholic university. However, it is not the case for Americans to live under an authority in another continent. They admired Pope John Paul's personal charisma, but not his rulings on matters such as Contraception and divorce. A recent survey showed that three-quarters of Catholic couples practice birth control, and almost half of all Catholic marriages collapse; the same proportion is observable among non-Catholics. <sup>1</sup>

---

**1. Peter Bromhead. "Life in Modern America". Longman Publishing, New York, 1994. P.144**

## MOSLEMS

The number of Moslems is not very big, but it is growing; since 1960 about half a million immigrants have come in from Moslem countries.

## JEWS

About all the six million Jews came to America before 1960 and about a quarter of them live in and around New York City. There are signs that the more "liberal" synagogues have been losing members, while the more "orthodox" Jewish congregations have increased by as much as 100 percent.

## QUAKERS

The Friends United Meeting, with only 58,000 members in 1983 (compared with 80,000 fifty years ago) is a religious body too small for inclusion in a general survey of religion. Although this group, often described as "Quakers", has colossal importance in

the history of America. In the seventeenth century its members suffered persecution in England for their insistence on their own harmless practices.

Quakers insist on the equality of people before God, and worship in meetings with no minister or order of service, often sitting in silence for long period. They abjure all violence.<sup>1</sup>

---

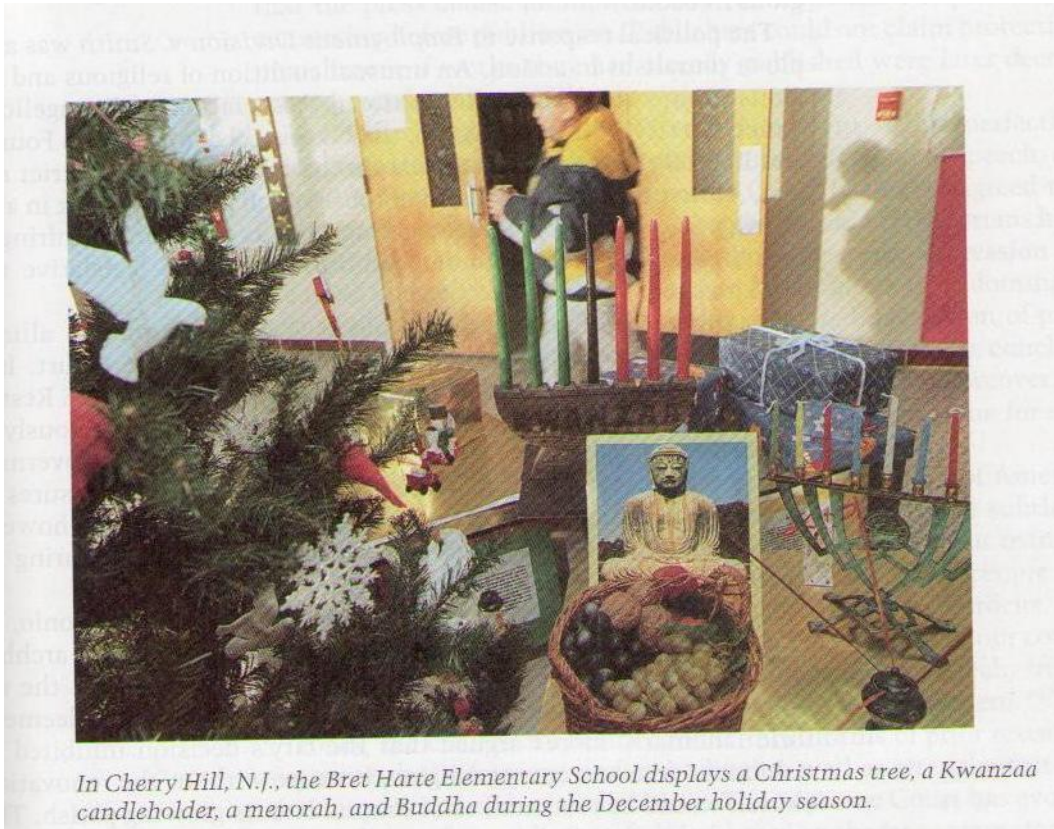
**1. Peter Bromhead. "Life in Modern America. Longman Publishing, New York, 1994. p. 147**

In 1677 and 1680, the England king gave powers to groups of Quakers which enabled them to plan the first constitutions for the colonies of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The aristocratic and rich English Quaker, William Penn, gave his name to Pennsylvania, and was its first governor, supporting democratic and liberal forms of the constitutions of these two colonies. He together with his group of Quakers founded the city of Philadelphia, which was the first capital of the United States. The Society of Friends is still greatly respected.

From its very beginnings as a nation, Americans have been extremely careful to separate church and state, religion and government. As a result, there are no church taxes in the United States, nor is there any official state church, or a state-supported religion.

There are no legal or official religions holidays. Christmas, for example, is an important religious holiday for Christians. However, Congress cannot proclaim it, or any other religious celebration to be an official holiday.





*In Cherry Hill, N.J., the Bret Harte Elementary School displays a Christmas tree, a Kwanzaa candleholder, a menorah, and Buddha during the December holiday season.*

## 7. CRIME

### THE LEGAL SYSTEM

For all ordinary law and order each state has responsibility in its own territory. The federal courts and therefore the Federal Bureau of Investigation, federal police and prisons-are involved only in cases outside the states` jurisdiction (such as federal income tax) and in cases arising under the U.S. Constitution. This last category is the most interesting, if a person convicted by a state court system can bring proving evidence that the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution were infringed by some aspect of his or her arrest, questioning or trial, a federal court can review that evidence and either support the sentence or abolish it. The same is true with the statement of cruel and unusual punishment imposed under the authority of a state.

Almost all cases concerning disputes about property or divorce, or murder, theft assault or traffic offences are dealt with by the relevant states hierarchy of city, county and state courts, police and prisons, in accordance with state law. Each state has a supreme court of appeal, otherwise the systems are different.

The legal system is based on Common law, brought from England, and on the laws and ordinances passed by state legislatures. Anglo-American Common law is based on the supposed reasonable person's view of what is right and objective. Most of the law in force is statute law. However there is a lot of argument in courts about the application of statute or Common Law to special cases, and lawyers earn high fees for doing this work. States vary in the quality of legal help available for accused persons who have no enough resources to pay the fees themselves.

In some states, judges are publicly elected in others they are appointed by state governors or by special bodies such as judicial councils. Some judges hold office for fixed periods, but others are elected for life or up to a retiring period; or there may be "recall". This arrangement implies collection of signatures on a "recall" petition by a group of people dissatisfied with a judge, and if the signatures make up the required number the people of the state (or country) vote "yes" or "no" to the question whether the assailed judge should be confirmed in office.

## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

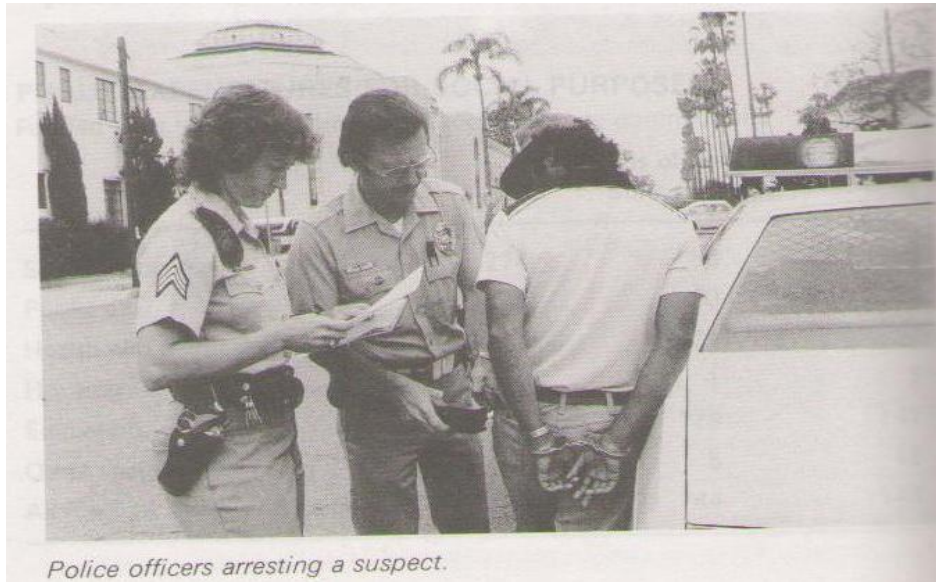
American's infamy for crime is explainable. Banning of the alcohol in 1919-33, known as the period of "prohibition", encouraged corruption and blackmail and gang rivalry. But when Prohibition ended, the network of organized crime that it had stimulated, turned to other types of activity-today based on drugs, as well as robbery. According to Hollywood's version the big men of crime are confident men of power and wealth. In Nevada and Atlantic City gambling is permitted to legitimate business financed by illicit gains. Walking visitors to Las Vegas among the cascading lights outside the gambling halls may admire the marvelous offensive and defensive armaments

of Al Capone's ancient bullet-proof car, now in a miniature street-side museum and serving as a recollection of the origins of the gambling halls.<sup>1</sup>



---

1. Peter Bromhead "Life in Modern America" p. 120.



But the ordinary crimes are the crimes that worry ordinary Americans. Robbery and acts of violence have increased tenfold in thirty years. In cities many people are afraid to go out at night. In New York when an ordinary traveler in a subway train shot some robbers who were attacking passengers and injured one of them, he was turned into a public hero and a huge campaign was organized in his defense when he was taken to court. The fact of his acquittal in 1987 produced more joy than protest-though he was found guilty of a minor offence.

Though the people committing some crimes are not caught, the number of criminals who are convicted is great enough to crowd the prisons. In 1988 more than a million people were in prison. Almost all these were in state prisons.

Although each state has the full authority for its prisons, the seventh amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits “cruel and unusual punishments”, and if any proof suggests that a state prison system may be breaking this rule a lawsuit against it may be brought in the federal courts. In a number of cases, federal courts have figured that prisoners being held in overcrowded conditions are really being subjected to “cruel and unusual punishment”, and the logical outcome of these rulings was strict interference by the federal courts in the functioning of state prisons. By 1987 more than half the states were ordered to improve conditions. In nine states federal judges had appointed special administrators. At the same time there was great activity in building new prisons and

enlarging old ones, and some states were using private companies to expand old ones. A lot of prisoners were being released early, and judges were being stimulated to try, as far as possible within reason, to avoid sentencing guilty people to imprisonment and use alternatives, e.g. community service to probation at home under close supervision. Some counties in New York State have utilized a new device, allowing people sentenced to imprisonment to stay in their homes for fixed periods, providing them with electronic bracelets linked to a computer, to monitor their movements. A home prisoner who breaks a personal curfew must go to goal.

## MURDER AND DEATH PENALTY

The murder rate is higher in the big cities; for example, it is seven times higher in Detroit, where forty children of under sixteen were killed by other children. This spot in American society has caused a lot of controversy in national and state politics, focused on two issues-the death penalty and controls on public access to guns.

In the “liberal” climate of the 1960s some states abolished the death penalty, while everywhere it was more and more rarely used. In eight years, 1968-75, no execution was carried out anywhere in the United States, and a Supreme Court ruling of 1972 seemed to indicate that it was to be considered unconstitutional as a “cruel and unusual punishment”. Meanwhile the number of murders had been growing fast, and in 1975 passed 21, 000-three times as many as twenty years before. Opinion polls were showing massive support for the return of the use of capital punishment.

In 1975 the Supreme Court made a new ruling which allowed the death penalty to be used in certain circumstances, and one man was executed in Florida in 1976. Several others followed, and in the three years 1986-86 there were 57 executions, in a dozen states.

In 1986 three-quarters of the states had laws allowing the death penalty, and nearly 2,000 people were in prison under sentence of death but going through interminable processes of appeal. Meanwhile the number of murders in the nation as a whole had declined by a fifth. Four thousand fewer people were murdered in 1985 than in the peak year of 1982, when the figure reached 23,000.

This evidence has given some encouragement to the advocates of the death penalty, but it is not conclusive. And even in the death penalty states, most murders do not qualify for it. In proportion to the population, there are nearly as many convicted murderers in prison, but not on death row, as there are in Dutch prisons for all other crimes put together. <sup>1</sup>

Conservative attitude towards strict penalties was revealed in California in 1986. In 1980 Rose Bird had been appointed Chief Justice of the state-the highest judicial office ever attained by a woman up to that time. During her period of holding office every appeal to death sentence was commuted to imprisonment. People opposed to her mercifulness. In 1986 harsh campaign was mounted against her and two other Supreme Court judges who had supported her. At the vote there was a two-to-one majority for her dismissal, and her two colleagues as well. This was the case for California only, but had a wider impact.

**DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER**  
**Facts about the Death Penalty**  
**Updated October 20, 2010**

**STATES WITH THE DEATH PENALTY (35)**

Alabama	New Hampshire
Arizona	North Carolina
Arkansas	Ohio
California	Oklahoma
Colorado	Oregon
Connecticut	Pennsylvania
Delaware	South Carolina
Florida	South Dakota
Georgia	Tennessee
Idaho	Texas
Illinois	Utah
Indiana	Virginia
Kansas	Washington
Kentucky	Wyoming
Louisiana	- plus
Maryland	U.S. Gov't
Mississippi	U.S. Military
Missouri	
Montana	
Nebraska	
Nevada	

**STATES WITHOUT THE DEATH PENALTY (15)**

Alaska
Hawaii
Iowa
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Dakota
Rhode Island
Vermont
West Virginia
Wisconsin
- plus
District of Columbia

**Number of Executions Total: 1230**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>
1976	0%
1977	1%
1978	0%
1979	2%
1980	0%
1981	1%
1982	2%
1983	5%
1984	21%
1985	18%
1986	18%
1987	25%
1988	11%
1989	16%
1990	23%
1991	14%
1992	31%
1993	38%
1994	31%
1995	56%
1996	45%

1997	74%
1998	68%
1999	98%
2000	85%
2001	66%
2002	71%
2003	65%
2004	59%
2005	60%
2006	53%
2007	42%
2008	37%
2009	52%
2010	42%

**Race of Defendants Executed**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2%</b>

**Race of Victim in Death Penalty Cases**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>3%</b>

Over 75% of the murder victims in cases resulting in an execution were white, even though nationally only 50% of murder victims generally are white.

There is much violence in the United States. There is a tradition of the frontier, of physical interchange. We see it in American football, for instance, in contrast to the much more prevalent soccer/football played all over the world.

On the other hand, you have to put this into perspective. All through human history, and particularly in poorer areas, there has been a tremendous amount of violence. In earlier days in the United States there was violence, but it just was not reported as widely. People were not keeping statistics. They did not have the recording machines or the crime-apprehension mechanisms. Also there was violence in our frontier past until the instruments and institutions for keeping law and order were established.

On the other hand, this has been a violent period in history with the spread of terrorism all over the world and the frustration as people have chosen new alternatives. You no longer have the tight-knit communities where everybody knows everybody else. And then you have the added pressures of inflation and unemployment. People have the pressures to get money when they have a drug problem. People who are normally law-abiding suddenly feel the necessity to get resources, to get alcohol or money to meet new demands of society. These are some of the factors that have stimulated violent crimes.

---

**1. Peter Bromhead “Life in Modern America”. New York, 1988, p.122**

Some sociologists say violence on television, designed to capture audience attention, is also giving models of violence to the young.

There were racial disorders not often recorded in the past. There was tremendous violence with the Irish and the Poles who were always supposed to be fighting. And there was the fighting among the Italians and other ethnic immigrants. The violence of “gangsters” was also the case.

Americans had considerable violence in the past partly because many of the people came here from societies where disputes were often settled with violence. Vendettas, revenge, and events of that nature would bring out violent solutions. Violence is a threat, in our time, there is no doubt about it. This is aggravated by the legally protected freedom to own hand guns. On the other hand, the technology, the organization, and the management of the law enforcement agencies have significantly improved.



Protection of lives and property has become a major industry in airports, offices, and homes.

When you look at crime, you have three aspects: the law enforcement system, the court system, and the penal system, or prisons. Heavy violence occurs in these places where there is suppression, restraint, and detention.

In places like Detroit, Miami, Washington or New York, there are some social strains in this time of transition that are putting great pressures on people which often stimulates violent situations. Sometimes violence is associated with poverty, frustration, lack of hope, or poor community institutions. I think that these unhealthy, violent places exist in almost every city in the world. I do not think that there is, in the American social pattern, more violence than one would expect in a country where there are, for the great majority of people, systems for security, law and order.

In visiting, I think that you can feel safe in the United States. I would emphasize that one should take precautions in Washington the same as you would take if you went to Paris, London, Tokyo, Moscow, or New Delhi.

## **GUN CONTROL**

Another controversial issue concerning the high murder rate arises from the ease with which handguns can be bought. Some states have some restricting regulations on the open sale, some not. Some states only prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns; in others owners must register all handguns and have a license to carry them, either open or concealed. In some communities people are not allowed to own any handguns.

Although most Americans would like to forbid or restrict the owning of handguns, there is still no federal law to restrict it. The major reason for this is the lobbying efforts of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and its three million members and assets of about a hundred million dollars. It is highly conservative, and follows the principle of the second amendment to the Constitution part of the 1791 Bill of Rights. "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed".<sup>1</sup> Although legislation was passed (against the NRA's opposition) in 1986 to stop the free sale of machineguns and of armour-piercing bullets, adequate control of ordinary guns is not easy. The power of the NRA illustrates one facet of American society. Guns, for shooting birds and animals, and

for protection against predatory human beings, are symbols associated with the building of the nation, self-reliance of the old frontier.

About half of the 200 million firearms in the U.S. are owned by hunters. They argue, that restrictive gun laws would mean that only the criminals are armed, and their slogan says: “Guns don’t kill, people do”.

People in favor of a national law point out that the second Amendment begins with the phrase “A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state.” This goes back to the time when seven out of the original thirteen colonies required all males to serve in the state militias. When the need arose they served as “citizen soldiers”. This is no longer the case, and the easy availability of guns leads to too many deaths. At present, a national law forbidding the ownership of all guns seems unlikely. Nevertheless, more states and communities will probably pass-their own much more restrictive laws in the future. A major crime bill passed by Congress in 1994 which banned a wide range of weapons shows that this is happening at the federal level, too.

---

**1. Douglas K. Stevenson, “American Life and Institutions”. p.33**

## **8. AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

### **THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS**

The founders` Constitution, as the historian Max Farrand observed, was a “bundle of compromises”. It was forged by a group of pragmatic statesmen who had to overlook, if not reconcile, their conflicting views about the politics of government. <sup>1</sup>

In 1774 twelve of the original thirteen British colonies sent delegates to the First Continental Congress. It was not an official gathering; it was convened to pass

resolutions condemning the British Parliament and Crown (king). The colonies had unsuccessfully demanded the right to have their own representatives in Parliament, stating that this was the only way they could defend their economic interests. The demand for political representation escalated and the slogan “No taxation without presentation” became popular. At the same time, the colonists opposed the appointment of judges by King George III to enforce unjust laws.

To express growing opposition to the Crown, the first Continental Congress recommended economic sanctions against Britain and boycotts of its goods, and advised colonists to arm themselves and form their own militias. In April 1775, fighting broke out between colonial and British troops, and in May a Second Continental Congress passed a resolution putting the colonies in a condition of defense. Tension increased and the demand for complete separation from Britain was decisive. A committee of the Continental Congress began work on a resolution proclaiming the colonies free and independent in the spring of 1776. Under the decision of the Committee, the members Thomas Jefferson would draft the resolution, now known as the Declaration of Independence. Applying positive results of the eighteenth-century advances in scientific knowledge to the understanding of human affairs and the belief expressed by John Locke that individuals had certain rights that could not be given or taken away, Jefferson compiled a long list of “abuses and usurpations” of power by King George.

---

**1. Stephen J. Wayne. “Conflict and Consensus in American Politics”. U.S. 2007, p. 36**

On July 1, 1776, the Continental Congress began debating Jefferson’s draft. Three days later, on July 4, it approved the Declaration of Independence. The members of the Continental Congress had agreed on a basic document; however the people they represented were divided on the issue of dividing ties with the parliament and the Crown.

Later in 1776, the Continental Congress proposed the Articles of Confederation, the United States first constitution; it was approved in 1776, but was not ratified by all thirteen colonies. To obtain approval, the authors of the Articles were taking precaution not to interfere in the authority of the states, each of which had formulated its own constitution.

In May of 1787 the Constitutional Convention opened in Philadelphia. The states` selected delegates, who had planned the revision of the Articles of Confederation at this convention, ended up drafting completely new Constitution that enormously strengthened the powers of the national government. <sup>1</sup>

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention agreed that the Articles of Confederation were defective. The Continental Congress lacked three important powers: to regulate commerce, to raise funds to support a national army, and to compel compliance by the states. Within five days after the convention convened, on May 25, 1787, the delegates had decided that “a national Government ought to be established consisting of a supreme legislative, executive, and judiciary. “ <sup>2</sup>

Although they agreed on the issue, that government must be based on the consent of the governed, the delegates had a distrust of direct democracy. They feared a tyranny of the majority, as well as the tyranny of a minority-the concentration of power in too few hands. The convention intended to create a republic (one in which power is exercised by elected representatives) rather than a government in which the people could rule directly.

---

**1. Gordon S. Wood. The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787 (Chapel Hill:**

**University of North Carolina Press, 1969).**

**2. “Resolution of Federal Convention (May 30, 1787)”, in the Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, vol 1, ed. Max Farrand (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2913), 30.**

The republican government would make and enforce laws and would get its authority from the citizens through popular elections.



The painting shows the Constitutional Convention under the chairmanship of George Washington (standing on the right). The delegates convened in Philadelphia.

The objective, in the words of James Madison, a delegate from Virginia, was a “mixed” form of government, one that combined democratic and representative elements to minimize the possibility of tyranny by either the majority or a minority. <sup>1</sup>

Believing that the people are more interested in their own welfare than the good of the whole and knowing that the size of the new nation prevented implementing a pure democracy, the framers created a republican form of government with built in checks and instead of governing themselves, the people elected representatives to protect their interests. These representatives could, however, vote against the desires of their voters if it was for good of the whole nation.

#### Ratification: The Battle for the Constitution

Drafting the Constitution was just the first step toward creating a new government. The vote for or against the new document was now in the hands of the various state conventions.

---

**1. “James Madison”, in the Federalist Papers, No.39, ed. Clinton Rossiter (New York; New American Library, 1961), 240-246.**

According to Article VII, nine of the thirteen states had to ratify the Constitution for it to take effect. Everyone understood that unless the most populous states ratified-

Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia-the Constitution would never succeed.

Delaware ratified the Constitution first on December 7, 1787. Within weeks Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut followed suit. Massachusetts approved the Constitution in February 1788, but it did so only after supporters promised to amend the Constitution to add a bill of rights.

In the spring of 1788, Maryland and South Carolina gave their approval. In June votes in New Hampshire and Virginia secured the nine states needed for ratification. But the battle did not end. New York's ratification was divided; New York's approval, however, was crucial for the success of the union because of its geographic position between New England and the rest of the states. Opponents were afraid that the national government was given too much power and that representatives from small states might conspire in Congress against New York's commercial interests. It was because of the threat of New York City to secede from the state that New York finally voted in favor of ratification. <sup>1</sup>

In addition to Massachusetts, New York, and several other states the price of ratification was an agreement that the First Congress would adopt a bill of rights that particularly guaranteed individuals civil rights and liberties. The framers had not done so because they thought that individual rights were protected by the constitutional prohibitions placed on the federal government and by the bills of rights in the state constitutions.

In 1789 the First Congress adopted twelve amendments to the Constitution and submitted them to the states. Ten of the amendments, now known as the Bill of Rights, were ratified by the states December 15, 1791.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights reflected the political conflict of the founding period as well as an underlying consensus about the nature of government and

---

**1. Stephen J. Wayne. G. Calvin Mackenzie, Richard L. Cole "Conflict And Consensus In American Politics". U.S. 2007.**

the rights that Americans desired to have. The conflict was over the division of authority between the states and central government, particularly over how much power individual states would have to pursue their economic, social and political interests.

The main goal was to reach the consensus, after the revision of the Articles of Confederation, in terms of maintaining a representative form of government based on popular consent, and to be responsive to the majority and at the same time protecting the rights of the minority. The Constitution incorporated this consensus and tried to resolve the conflict in the major compromises that were agreed to at the Convention.

The Bill of Rights is considered to be the fundamental rights of any American. Among these are the freedoms of religion, speech, and the press, the right of peaceful assembly, and the right to petition the government to correct wrongs. Other rights protected the citizens against unreasonable searches, arrests, and seizures of property, and established a system of justice guaranteeing orderly legal procedures. This including the right of trial by jury that is being judged by one's fellow citizens. Americans have great pride in their Constitution. They believe that the ideals, freedoms, and rights were not given to them by a small ruling class, that they are "unalienable" rights of every American and cannot be taken away by any government, court official, or law. The Federal and state governments formed under the Constitution, were designed to serve the people and fulfill their wishes. (and not the other way around). People did not want their government to rule them. Americans think of politicians and governmental officials as their servants. This attitude remains very strong among Americans today. The Constitution has considerable influence on other countries. Several other nations have based their own forms of government on it. It's noteworthy, that Lafayette, a hero of the American Revolution, drafted the French declaration of rights on the basis of the U.S. Constitution when he returned to France.

One of the main constitutional changes in the American system of government created by the framers to a system, that is much more democratic and inclusive of more people. Six times in the history of America the Constitution has been amended to extend the voting base, giving more people a direct voice in their government. These changes were the Fifteenth Amendment, which gave the vote to the newly freed slaves; the Seventeenth Amendment, which permitted direct popular election of the Senate; the

Nineteenth Amendment, which gave the right to vote to women; the Twenty-third Amendment, which gave District of Columbia voters right to vote for president; the Twenty-fourth Amendment, which abolished the poll tax that required people to pay to vote; and the Twenty-sixth Amendment, which extended the vote to citizens over the age of eighteen.

## THE GOVERNMENTAL POWERS

You can better understand the results of the framers' efforts by taking two different approaches to studying the Constitution and the distribution of power; a horizontal view and vertical view.

### HORIZONTAL POWERS <sup>1</sup>

Governmental powers are divided horizontally among the branches of the national government—the executive, legislative, and judicial branches—according to the separation of powers. Each branch received a separate set of powers so that no one branch could become too powerful. At the same time each branch has power to “check” the other. A system of checks and balances was introduced into the structure, giving each branch the power to approve, disapprove, or change what the other branches do.

Another fundamental principle of American government is that because of the system of checks and balances, compromise in politics is a matter of necessity, not choice. For example, the House of Representatives controls spending and finance, so the President must have its agreement for his proposals and programs.

### VERTICAL POWERS

Vertical powers implies relationship between the centralized national government and the individual state governments. This distribution of power is known as federalism. We'll dwell upon the issue of federalism later.

---

**1. Lerry Berman, Bruce Murphy, “Approaching Democracy” U.S. 2007 p. 130**



## 9. CONGRESS

The U.S. Congress is a bicameral legislature-that means, it is composed of two legislative bodies. The larger is the House of Representatives, which has 435 voting members plus 5 other delegates who represent the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories and possessions; these delegates have a vote on committees and subcommittees but do not vote on the passage of bills on the full House. Each member of the House represents a congressional district with a population of about 690, 000. The districts are distributed among the states according to population, with each state having at least one and California having the largest number (fifty-three). All House members serve terms of two years.

The smaller legislative chamber is the Senate. It has 100 members, two from each state. Senators serve six year terms, but the terms are alternated so that every two years about one-third of the states in the Senate are up for election.

Elections to Congress occur in November in even numbered years. The New Congress convenes in the following January. Each Congress lasts two years and is numbered; thus the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress convened in 1789 and the 109<sup>th</sup> convened in 2005. The first year of a Congress is called the first session, and the second year is called the second session. The first session of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress met in 2005, and the second session in 2006. <sup>1</sup>

---

**1. Larry Berman, Bruce Murphy “Approaching Democracy”, U.S. 2007, p. 13**

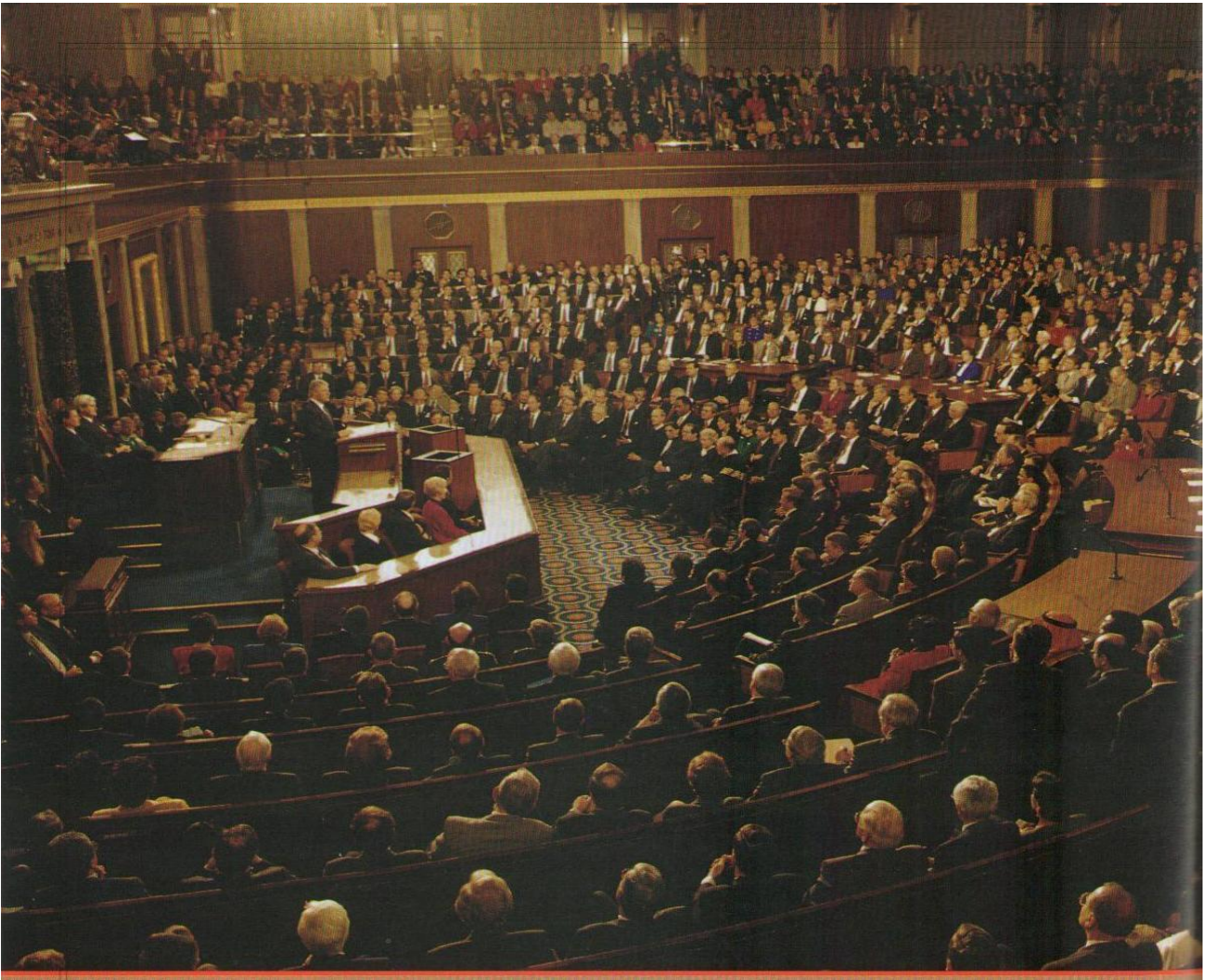
## THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

According to the Constitutional requirement concerning the service in Congress, to serve in the House, representatives must have reached the age of twenty-five; have been a U.S. citizen for seven years, and be a resident of the state (but not necessarily the district) from which they are elected. Senators must also be residents of the state from which they are elected, and they must be at least thirty years old and have been a U.S. citizen for nine years at the time they begin their service.

Although all members of Congress have those simple common qualifications, they greatly differ in other ways. In their speech, ideas, and values they mirror the regional and religious diversity of the American people. As a group they rank relatively high in socioeconomic status. Few blue-collar workers serve in Congress, and not one of its members is poor. The percentage of women and of members of ethnic minorities are also smaller than their percentages of the whole population. This unequal representation affects how Congress works and what it does; it diminishes its democratic character.<sup>1</sup>

---

**1. Stephen J. Wayne. G. Calvin Mackenzie. Richard L. Cole “Conflict and Consensus in American Politics”, U.S., 2007, p.372.**



## THE WORK ENVIRONMENT

In recent decades, service in Congress has become difficult and demanding. There are enormous and constant demands on a member's time. Hundreds of thousands of people view the member as their personal representative in the federal government. When they have problems such as a lost of social security check or when they need help obtaining a small-business loan or a passport, they expect their representative to assist them. They also expect their representative to be a source of information about what is going on in Washington and around the world.

Members are also legislators. Each year they must vote on hundreds of issues, many of which are too complex to be grasped before the vote. Each member also serves on several congressional committees and subcommittees, where members have to be

deeply involved in the development of new legislation and in reviewing the implementation of legislation passed by previous Congress.

In addition, most members of Congress are candidates for reelection. The election campaign requires frequent meetings with leaders of various interest groups in the home state or district, contact with other funding sources to ensure the availability of campaign funds.

Congress makes all laws, and each house of Congress has the power to introduce legislation. Each can also vote against legislation passed by the other. Because legislation only becomes law if both houses agree, compromise between them is necessary. Congress decides upon taxes and how money is spent. In addition, it regulates commerce among the states and with foreign countries. It also sets rules for the naturalization of foreign citizens.

## THE PRESIDENT

The President of the United States is elected every four years to a four-year term of office, with no more than two full terms allowed. As is true with Senators and Representatives, the President is elected directly by the voters (through state electors). In other words, the political party with the most Senators and Representatives does not choose the President. This means that the President can be from one party and the majority of those in the House of Representatives or Senate (or both) from another. This is not uncommon.

Thus, although one of the parties may win a majority in the midterm elections (those held every two years), the President remains President, even though his party (or, of course, in the future, her party) may not have a majority in either house. Such a result could easily hurt his ability to get legislation through Congress, which must pass all laws, but this is not necessarily so. In any case, the President's policies must be approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate before they can become law. In domestic as well as in foreign policy, the President can seldom count upon the automatic support of Congress, even when his own party has a majority in both the Senate and the House. Therefore he must be able to convince members of Congress, the Representatives and Senators, of his point of view. He must bargain and compromise. This is a major

difference between the American system and those in which the nation's leader represents the majority party or parties, that is, parliamentary systems.

Within the executive branch, there are a number of executive departments. Currently these are the department of State, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, Education, and Veterans Affairs. Each department is established by law, and, as their names indicate, each is responsible for a specific area. The head of each department is appointed by the President. These appointments, however, must be approved by the Senate. None of these Secretaries, as the department heads are usually called, can also be serving in Congress or in another part of the government. Each is directly responsible to the President and only serves as long as the President wants him or her to. They can best be seen, therefore, as Presidential assistants and advisers. When they meet together, they are termed "the President's Cabinet". Some Presidents have relied quite a bit on their Cabinets for advice, and some very little.<sup>1</sup>

How can a peanut farmer and a movie actor even try to get the presidency? What were their qualifications? We should have experienced people in positions with as much power in the world as the American president has. How do these people get elected?

The American electoral system is puzzlement to many people in other countries where the political parties are usually ideological and /or personality parties with leaders who have been in party power for years and years. By contrast in the United States a man like President Carter can be elected. However, he certainly was and is a lot more than a peanut farmer. He was a career naval officer and a nuclear engineer, and as the governor of Georgia was the administrator of one of the most complicated and fastest growing state organizations in the United States.

Still, he performed a political miracle as a relatively unknown governor, unknown on the national scene. In twenty-two months he became well known by traveling, working, and broadcasting, and by his communicating ideas in a well organized campaign to get the nomination of his party. Then he beat President Ford who was an incumbent president.

---

**1. Charles T. Vetter, "Citizen Ambassadors," U.S. 1984. p. 49.**

Ronald Reagan is quite well known to the world community because of his motion picture experience. But very few people are really conscious of the long, political career of this man. He started out as a Democrat in the opposition party to the party that he later represented, the Republican Party. He was a union leader as head of the Screen Actors Guild at a very difficult time in the history of union organizations in the 30`s and 40`s. Over the years he was in politics, supporting various candidates and then actively campaigning within the Republican party as he was moving into national recognition.

For the three national conventions of the Republican party, he was a serious contender as a Presidential candidate for the conservative wing of the Republican party. This was based on his extensive experience as a broadcaster in radio, as a commentator, as a writer, and as a governor (as was Carter). He was governor of the largest state in the United States, which in economic terms would rank as the tenth most powerful nation in the world if California were an independent nation.

He served two terms as governor, being re-elected with many of the same criticisms that came up during the campaign for his election for president. Many claimed that he was extremely conservative, that he was prone to "shoot from the hip". That he was an ideologist and not a practical politician and that he did not have political experience.

After serving as governor of California, Reagan spent almost three years combing the United States, going to every segment, every state, supporting and rebuilding the Republican party after Watergate and the Nixon period which had so seriously damaged the reputation of the Republican Party.

In 1980, Reagan enjoyed a resounding victory. He got about ten million more votes than Mr. Carter did, as well as many more electoral votes in the U.S. indirect election system.



*The Oval Office, located in the west wing of the White House, is the President's office. The picture shows Ronald Reagan, President from 1981 to 1989.*

How does a man like this get elected? First of all, he has to work and then work some more to get the support necessary for the nomination as the candidate of his party. States have primary elections where they elect the delegates to the national party convention that chooses the Presidential candidates of the major parties. He has to get party support and financing. He has to be able to meet every kind of interest group and every kind of audience, and gain support and recognition from the media. So, being elected is a very complicated economic, social, political, emotional and collective enterprise.

For example, President Carter and President Reagan won by hard work, duty, and service to their parties, and by putting together rather remarkable teams that worked on local, county, state, regional and national levels. Not only did the teams work with people but with issues and communication skills since TV, mass media and emotions affect public opinion and voting decisions so much. Much power has passed from party political leaders to communication and campaign specialists who can “produce the vote”.

They did all this within the dynamics of the domestic American political system. They were often working down in the “grassroots”, as they say, “down with the voter”. These people worked at the basic roots of their parties, building support that produced an election campaign organization capable of getting the votes necessary to help them become President.

So, “How does a person become President?” Not just anybody can become president. It has to be somebody with experience, a party record, significant service and organization, and major amounts of hard, long continuous team work. It is possible to be a relative newcomer, in terms of national politics, but you will never find a person getting to the presidential position who does not have substantial political and government experience, party organization, and an organization that can get the money necessary in a modern campaign to compete effectively and win. <sup>1</sup>

## THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

The third branch of government, in addition to the legislative (Congress) and executive (President) branches, is the federal judiciary. Its main instrument is the Supreme Court, which watches over the other two branches. It determines whether or not their laws and acts are in accordance with the Constitution. Congress has the power to fix the number of judges sitting on the Court, but it cannot change the powers given to the Supreme Court by the Constitution itself.

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and eight associate justices. They are nominated by the President but must be approved by the Senate. Once approved, they hold office as Supreme Court justices for life. A decision of the Supreme Court cannot be appealed to any other court. Neither the President nor Congress can change their decisions. In addition to the Supreme Court, Congress has established 11 federal courts of appeal and, below them, 91 federal district courts.

The Supreme Court has direct jurisdiction in only two kinds of cases: those involving foreign diplomats and those in which a state is a party. All other cases which



**1. Charles T. Vetter. “Citizen Ambassadors, U.S. 1984. p. 50**

reach the Court are appeals from lower courts. The Supreme Court chooses which of these it will hear. Most of the cases involve the interpretation of the Constitution. The Supreme Court also has the “power of judicial review”, that is, it has the right to declare laws and actions of the federal, state, and local governments unconstitutional. While not stated in the Constitution, this power was established over time.

## CHECKS AND BALANCES

The Constitution provides for three main branches of government which are separate and distinct from one another. The powers given to each are carefully balanced by the powers of the other two. Each branch serves as a check on the others. This is to keep any branch from gaining too much power or from misusing its powers. The chart below illustrates how the equal branches of government are connected and how each is dependent on the other two.

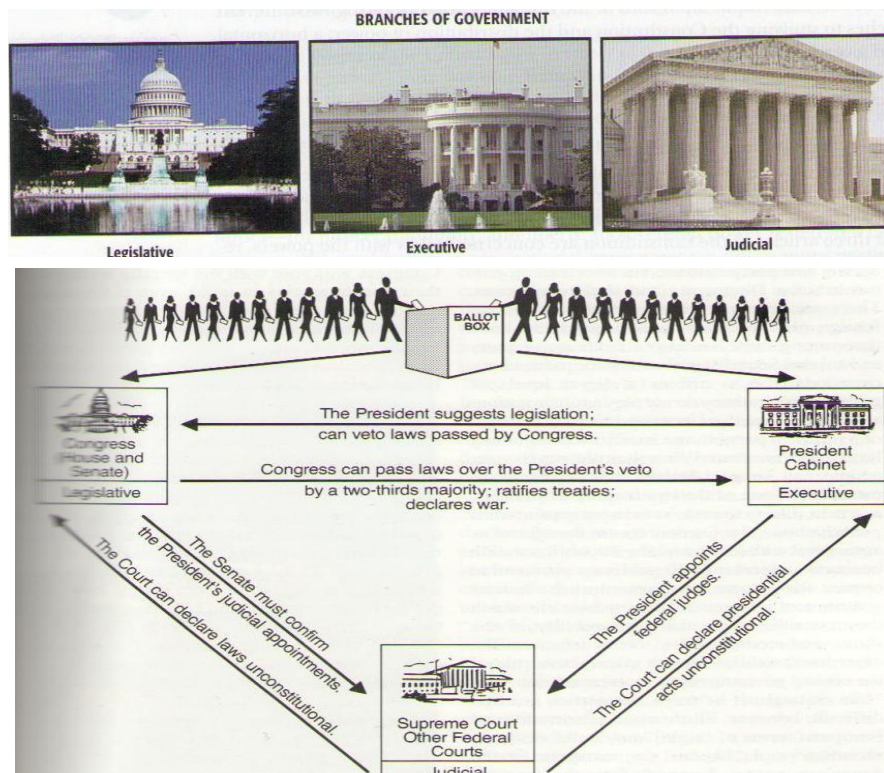
Congress has the power to make laws, but the President may veto any act of Congress. Congress, in its turn, can override a veto by a two-thirds vote in each house. Congress can also refuse to provide funds requested by the President. The President can appoint important officials of his administration, but they must be approved by the Senate. The President also has the power to name all federal judges; they, too, must be approved by the Senate. The courts have the power to determine the constitutionality of all acts of Congress and of Presidential actions, and to strike down those they find unconstitutional.

The system of checks and balances makes compromise and consensus necessary. Compromise is also a vital aspect of other levels of government in the United States. This system protects against extremes. It means, for example, that new Presidents cannot radically change governmental policies just as they wish. In the U.S., therefore, when people think of “the government”, they usually mean the entire system, that is, the executive branch and the President, Congress, and the courts. In fact and in practice, therefore, the President (i.e., “the Administration”) is not as powerful as many people

outside the U.S. seem to think he is. In comparison with other leaders in systems where the majority party forms “the government”, he is much less so. <sup>1</sup>

Barack Hussein Obama II (pronounced /be-ra:k hu'sein ou'ba:m-/; born August 4, 1961) is the President-elect of the United States and the first African American to be elected President of the United States. Obama was the junior United States Senator from Illinois from 2005 until he resigned on November 16, 2008, following his election to the Presidency.

He is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School, where he was the first black president of the Harvard Law Review. Obama worked as a community organizer and practiced as a civil rights attorney before serving three terms in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004. He also taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School from 1992 to 2004. Following an unsuccessful bid for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000, he announced his campaign for the U.S. Senate in January 2003, won a primary victory in March 2004, and was elected to the Senate in November 2004.



1. Douglas K. Stevenson “American Life and Institutions”, Washington D.C. 1998, p.42

## **10. Icelander Ethnic Group**

### **Assimilation and Group Maintenance**

From the beginning, Icelanders in the United States felt secure enough in their own identity to adopt new ways and eagerly followed the advice of successful immigrants who had preceded them, especially the hundred Norwegians. They learned English, participated in community activities, and held public office in the frontier settlements. Many members of the second and third generations went to college and subsequently became active in state politics: in North Dakota alone they have produced 3 state attorneys general, 3 state supreme court judges, and 12 state legislators.

Although Icelanders have generally been quick to assimilate and became American citizens, they have not lost interest in their Icelandic past. In 1938 Kate Bearson Carter of Utah, whose parents were Icelanders, sponsored the building of a lighthouse in Spanish Fork's Icelandic neighborhood as a monument to the first Icelandic settlers. Through the Icelandic-American Society and other contacts, this interest has been reciprocated. In 1930, when Iceland celebrated the millennial anniversary of the founding of their parliament, the Althing, the U.S. government presented it with a statue of Leif Ericsson. The centennial of Icelandic immigration in 1855 was celebrated at a three-day festival in Spanish Fork. Icelandic Americans remain a successfully assimilated yet ethnically conscious group.

## **GEORGIAN IMMIGRATION IN THE U.S**

The political unrest of the 1990s in Georgia, constant economic and political reforms and subsequent crisis had negatively impacted on the social lives of Georgians. The political and economic processes going on in Georgia since the dissolving of the Soviet Union caused large-scale migration from the country.

Deterioration of the social-economic conditions can be considered as the main inducive factor in this process. The economic collapse, increase in poverty level, deterioration of living standards generated flows of immigration towards Europe and North America.

In 1990s the intensity of migration increased because of political factors, such as ethnic conflicts, and rising levels of crime. The population became socially vulnerable to starvation, labor migration became the only alternative for many. According to the interviews with migrants, we can conclude that the for them to travel abroad in the search for work, was the main purpose to improve the material and living conditions, to strive towards better life and escape economic hardship. According to the official survey, 1 out of 5 families staying in Georgia have income and are fully dependent on the remittances of the labor migrant in their family.

## **CAUSES OF LABOR MIGRATION. ITS SCALE AND TRENDS IN GEORGIA**

### **Specific Causes and Motives of Labor Migration**

Much immigration from Georgia occurs for economic reasons, which began in 1990 as mentioned above. Wage rates vary greatly between different countries. Individuals of "third world" countries in particular can have far higher standards of living in developed countries than in their originating countries. The economic pressure to migrate can be so high that when legal means are restricted people may immigrate regardless of their legal status.

In 1990s the intensity of migration was also influenced by political factors, such as ethnic conflicts, civil strife and rising levels of crime. The population became increasingly socially vulnerable to the extent of starvation. Labor migration became the only alternative for many.

According to the interviews with the migrants and their family members, it can be concluded that the main motive for them to travel abroad in their search for work was to improve the material and living conditions, to strive towards better life and to avoid economic hardship.

According to IOM survey, 1 out of 5 families staying in Georgia had no income and are fully dependent on the remittances of the labor migrant in their family. Of the interviewed families, 61% had an average monthly income of 50GEL or no income at all. Only 3.1% of the families of labor migrants lived on the subsistence minimum. The situation was worse in the regions than in Tbilisi.

There is one story told by an interviewer:

Kathe (40) has higher education, she is an economist. She has a husband unable to work and two children. In 2000 Kathe left her job, because she had a very low salary not enough to support her family. She went to New York to look after 78 year-old lady. She left on a tourist visa and stayed there illegally after her visa expiration. Now she gets \$2000 a month, and she can afford to send her family enough money to live on. Thanks to her remittances her two children are getting high education at Georgian Universities. She is going to come back in a couple of years when her children graduate, and when she saves enough money to live on back home.

Thus, the main motivation for labor migrants is the aim of enhancing economic condition of their families. An overwhelming majority of the respondents stated that the purpose of their travel was to ensure their family's subsistence. There is a small percentage going to the U.S. to study, but, naturally, this is closely linked to a desire to find well-paid employment abroad.

## MAIN TRENDS OF LABOR MIGRATION

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the citizens of Independent Georgia, as all other citizens of the former Soviet Union, had the chance to travel abroad without any of the artificial impediments of the past.

It became evident that labor migration flows are mainly directed towards 4 countries: Russian Federation (39%), USA (14%), Greece (14%) and Germany (13%), Turkey (13%).<sup>1</sup>

---

### **1. International Organization of migration. UN Association in Georgia.**

#### **International Migration Survey, 2002**

Historically developed tradition of labor migration, a comparatively better knowledge of the language and more information about its labor market can explain the migration to Russian Federation.

People from the so-called "provincial" regions mainly head towards Russian Federation. This could be a result of a lack of knowledge of European languages and

information gap, which impedes labor migration from these regions of Georgia towards Western Europe and the U.S.

Before the collapse of the Soviet Union there was a Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The “Iron Wall” was separating people of these countries from each other. If anyone dared to go abroad, he/she was considered to be a spy, and his/her family members were imprisoned or expelled from the country. Since 1990s this “Iron Wall” broke down, the people of former Soviet Republics, Georgians among them, got an opportunity to leave their countries and travel abroad. Since they saw that living standards were much higher in Western Countries, and, especially, in the U.S. they started to migrate to work there no matter on what kind of jobs to support their families back home.

It is estimated that the flow of labor migrants from Tbilisi is mainly directed towards the U.S. Why do people migrate to the U.S. in much more larger scale than in any other country? The answer is very simple: the U.S. is a superpower. Its living standards are high, economy is stable, wages are high, and what’s the most significant, the U.S. is called: A Nation of Immigrants”. The country was settled, built, and developed by generations of immigrants and their children. Today America continues to take in more immigrants than any other country in the world. The U.S. is counted among the most heterogeneous societies in the world. Many different cultural traditions, ethnic sympathies, national origins, racial groups and religious affiliations make up “we the people”.

“Give me your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

Since that invitation was inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, over 45 million people have passed through the “golden door”, seeking to make a better life for themselves and their loved ones. <sup>1</sup>

Today, this wave of immigrants continues to roll, and Georgia makes up low percentage of them, though even this small percentage of immigrants is very significant to as small country as Georgia.

## METHODS OF ORGANIZING LABOR MIGRATION

The adaptation process and the social-economic and legal status of labor migrants in their host countries significantly depend on the nature of migration and the way it has been organized.

There are several specific methods of organizing migration. In the majority of cases the departures of labor migrants occur with the assistance of relatives and friends. There are also travel agencies, student exchange programs, invitations of specific employer, and some state employment services that play a key role in organizing labor migration.

The analysis of labor migrants according to gender, age and social profiles, like level of education, marital status, revealed that young men, married persons, and people with low levels of education (incomplete secondary, secondary, secondary general and secondary special) are mostly migrating at random. Highly educated labor migrants are often assisted by relatives and friends and also seek services of private employment and travel agencies. Yet, the share of random labor migration remains relatively high also among the highly educated. Student migration often occurs by participating in student exchange programs and by using the services of private employment agencies. Persons with incomplete secondary education often travel abroad with the assistance of private employment agencies, which can be explained by the specific character of the employment structures of Georgian labor migrants abroad.

---

**1. Thomas Kral, “Discover America”. United States Information Agency.**

**Washington, D.C. 20547, 1996. p.170**

Namely, these migrants are usually engaged in unskilled or low-skill labor. <sup>1</sup>

The share of “random” migration to the U.S. from Georgia is high, but most of the migration occurs through student exchange programs and private contacts. Majority of “random” migrants remain abroad for more than 5 years. This is largely due to the fact that this group of migrants usually lives and works illegally, which makes it difficult to visit their homeland and then emigrate.

Travel expenses related to labor migration are the highest to the U.S.A. it should be noted that migrants are willing to spend much amount as they expect a high remuneration for their expenditures. Most labor migrants from Georgia don't sign labor contracts and are not legally employed.

Using irregular channels to go abroad and working in an irregular situation impact negatively on migrants' status and protection in receiving countries. Illegal migrants are usually afraid to address official Georgian representations or relevant governmental agencies in the host countries if they encounter problems. They mainly rely on their own capacities or on their relatives and friends.

Today almost 11 million illegal migrants are in the U.S. that cause many problems for the local people. Since 98/11 terrorist attack the U.S. has stricktened control of immigrants, and many suspicious migrants have been deported to their countries. According to IOM sources, 3 of them were Georgians.

To avoid above mentioned problems, and to protect their labor migrants, I think, it is necessary for the State Employment Service of Georgia to take active role in organizing and managing labor migration, it must become active in working towards enhancing the social-economic and legal security of Georgian labor migrants abroad.

---

**1. Chipashvili, M. Migration of Georgian Population. Tbilisi, 1999**

## **INFLUENCE OF LABOR MIGRATION ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC POTENTIAL OF GEORGIA**

The characteristics of external labor migration from Georgia are similar to those of most post-communist Eastern-European countries. Today labor migration from Georgia occurs against a background of intensive depopulation, and critical decline of



fertility rates. The impact of permanent, as well as temporary migration on the demographic profile of Georgia is extremely negative. The main reasons for this are: The direct decline of the number of the country's population; the decline of Georgia's reproductive resource potential; the high probability of temporary labor migrants turning into permanent emigration.

According to UN estimates done in 2000, if current development continues this way, the Georgian population will have decreased by 2 million by 2050, which means almost 40% of its present population. Some of Georgia's regions face the risk of desertion. For example, the collapse of Tkibuli's mining industry has given rise to the possibility of a complete depopulation of this region as a result of the collapse of its main industry. Similar processes are observable throughout Georgia, including other cities and regions.

It should be noted every third labor migrant is female. The majority of labor migrants are married, but great number of them is single. The share of this category is especially high in so-called "prestigious" districts of Tbilisi. Age group of the population under 30 also is the largest in these districts. The young population mostly tends to go to the U.S. for work or study simple because they prefer to live in a Western environment; they have an interest in living and working abroad. This specific age group also adapts more easily to a new environment.

As for the migration structure according to ethnicity in Georgia, in the beginning of the 1990s the share of the non-Georgian, Russian speaking labor migrants was high and their initially temporary labor migration to Russia turned into their permanent settlement. Large share of ethnic Russians and Armenians living in Georgia left for Russian Federation. As for Georgians, their destination countries were: the U.S. Germany and Greece.

The potential for return to Georgia also varies according to ethnicity. Inclination to return to Georgia to work is higher among Georgians compared to any other ethnicity of labor migrants.

## GENDER ASPECTS OF LABOR MIGRATION

Nature of labor migration has significantly changed as a result of changed gender patterns. Whereas labor migration has traditionally been male dominated, an increasing number of women leave their home country in search for work.

Until 1990s, labor migration of women from Georgia was socially unacceptable. However, as a consequence of increasing poverty and hardship, a significant proportion of women decided to find a solution in the form of employment abroad.

It should be noted that the demand for certain categories of traditionally female labor (House maids, nannies, service sector) on the international labor market has risen, which encouraged the outbound migration of Georgian women prepared to work as cheap labor.

The attitudes toward the role of women in migration changed not only in Georgia, but worldwide as well. The feminization of migration is regarded as a new phase in the development of labor migration and a further step towards female emancipation. Despite these gains, women continue to face higher levels of discrimination on the international labor markets than men. However, what makes women particularly vulnerable is their exposure to particular gender specific aspects of discrimination, such as trafficking. Female migrants from Georgia are subject to this negative phenomena. In addition, their cultural background, traditions, family relations and gender roles, clash with the realities of the world abroad. Many women were confronted with previously unknown aspects of the labor market. The reason why women continue to expose themselves to the danger of potential discrimination and exploitation can be explained by the fact that their families lack the bare subsistence minimum and women see no alternative to migration. This new gender role of women as bread earners conflicts with the traditional role of women as mothers.

In comparison with men, women find it more difficult to be away from their homeland and relatives. During migration, families are separated in most cases. Migrant women often look after other people's children, while their own children are staying in Georgia with close relatives. Women in comparison with men, have more frequent contacts with their children and relatives, who remained in Georgia.

Before the crisis of the 1990s, the labor migration of women was considered socially unacceptable in Georgia. Nowadays, a significant number of women are forced to seek a way out of poverty in the form of employment abroad. Feminization of migration is considered to be a progressive sign in the West, it is associated with gender equality, but for Georgia it cannot be counted as positive sign. The entry of Georgian women into international labor market results mainly from a lack of alternative if they want to support their family. The majority of labor immigrants are female. On the reasons from this is the demand for specific types of female work force on the international labor market.

Essential characteristic of labor migration of the Georgian population is its high level of education. Highly educated and skilled contingent of the population leaving the country decreases the labor capacity (potential) and human capital of Georgia.

The employment of Georgian labor migrants abroad does not correspond to their qualification; part of the problem can also be the lack of language skills. Their labor potential and human capital is devalued. Thus, one of the main tasks of regulating labor migration is to facilitate employments for Georgian citizens abroad in line with their professional qualification in order to enable them to realize their labor potential which will help them regulate the process of their professional labor integration.

The labor migrants in most cases are the persons who belong to families with insufficient income. While working abroad, especially in the U.S., their income raises a lot. \$500 million are sent to Georgia annually from the labor migrants abroad.

The links of labor migrants working in the U.S. with their families in Georgia are weak. This can be due to their regular situation of the migrant, too expensive travel costs, etc. contacts occur mainly by phone. Travel is seldom and irregular.

Though during the last 2 years the positive changes are seen in Georgia, still labor migration remains steady and a significant decrease in its intensity is not expected in the nearest future. Labor migrants will return and work in Georgia only if certain preconditions are met. These are mainly of economic nature.

The task of developing and implementing an effective economic policy that would stimulate local business development and improve Georgia's investment climate should be a priority. Development and implementation of international agreements in the

field of labor migration are of equal importance. Employment opportunities need to be created, an effective social policy implemented.

The state needs to develop active migration policy. A solid basis for migration policy should be created, and specific mechanism implemented for the regulation of labor migration. Special program should be worked out and implemented which will legalize labor migration.

## 11. POLITICAL PARTIES

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PARTY SYSTEM

Many of the framers, beginning with George Washington, feared the development of a political party system. James Madison, the strongest influence on the Constitution's final shape, saw them, as a direct threat to the common good because their promotion of specialized interests would subvert the general welfare.

Despite the framers' fears, political parties quickly developed in the United States and by 1800 were already playing a major role in elections and governance. A party system began to emerge during the divisive and continuing debate between Alexander Hamilton, President Washington's secretary of the treasury, and Thomas Jefferson, his secretary of state. Hamilton, a supporter of a strong federal government, argued for a manufacturing sector that would allow the United States to become a wealthy and self-sufficient trading partner in the world economy. A strong federal government would have a national bank with sufficient power to borrow and spend money, develop international agreements, and protect the domestic economy. Conversely, Jefferson wished to see a United States that remained largely rural. He envisioned a nation that retained its republican roots built upon a large working, agrarian class. These two visions for the country divided other leaders and the general public into factions- "the spirit of party" the framers had feared.

In the first few years of the republic, many of the framers denounced party divisions. Hamilton, for instance, declared that a faction dominated by Madison and Jefferson was “decidedly hostile to me and my administration...and dangerous to the union, peace and happiness of the country.”<sup>1</sup> George Washington warned “in the most solemn manner against the harmful effects of the spirit of party”. This spirit, he asserted, demands “uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame.” Washington’s cautionary remarks about political parties may seem extreme by today’s standards, but he was surly correct when he said that the “spirit of party” was “a fire not to be quenched.”<sup>2</sup>

---

1. Michael Nelson, “Guide to the Presidency” Washington, D.C.; Congressional Quarterly Press, 1989, pp. 268-69

2. Noble E. Cunningham, “The Making of the American Party System, 1789- 1809” N.J. U.S. 1965

## POLITICAL PARTIES

The balance of powers among political parties lies at the heart of democracy, representing the crucial link between what citizens want and what government does. That is the parties must continually change, adapt, and adjust to the popular forces of their time. They must stay in touch with the voters—from whom they derive their support and power—so that they can again control government and the policy-making process. Competitive and democratic political parties allow a wide range of groups to enter peacefully into politics that might otherwise have to turn to illegitimate measures to gain their ends.

Political parties are a relatively new phenomenon, nonexistent until less than two hundred years ago. Charlemagne (King of France 742-814 and first emperor of West, 800-14) needed no party nomination before heading the Holy Roman Empire. Parties did not vie (strive for) for power under Henry VIII. The framers did not even mention political parties in U.S. Constitution. Parties played little role in history because the general public played little role in the political process. For most of human history, politics was a game for elites. It consisted of power struggles among a small inner circle

of leaders, people trying to become rulers or currying favor with those in power. Broad-based political parties began to form with eighteenth-century attempts to implement political equality, when the number of people participating in the governing process began to grow. Parties became helpful in organizing the legislative factions and in finding effective ways to seek power and influence. Today, political parties are massive, complex institutions, incorporating large number of citizens into the political process. By their very nature, parties are forces of democratization.

**Political parties**, then, are nongovernmental institutions that organize and give direction to mass political desires. They bring together people who think alike or who have common interests to work toward common goals.

The clearest goal of any political group is power to control government and thus implement its policy preferences. In an age of mass participation, power goes to those elites who can connect with the masses. Today, the Democratic and Republican parties appear to frequently have trouble making that connection.<sup>1</sup>

## POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS

Americans regularly exercise their democratic rights by voting in elections and by participating in political parties and election campaigns. Today, there are two major political parties in the United States, the Democratic and the Republican. The Democratic Party evolved from the party of Thomas Jefferson, formed before 1800. The Republican Party was established in the 1850s by Abraham Lincoln and others who opposed the expansion of slavery into new states then being admitted to the Union.

The Democratic Party is considered to be the more liberal party, and the Republican, the more conservative. Democrats generally believe that government has an obligation to provide social and economic programs for those who need them. Republicans are not necessarily opposed to such programs but believe they are too costly to taxpayers. Republicans put more emphasis on encouraging private enterprise in the belief that a strong private sector makes citizens less dependent on government.

Both major parties have supports among a wide variety of Americans and embrace a wide range of political views. Members, and even elected officials, of one party do not necessarily agree with each other on every issue. Americans do not have to join a political party to vote or to be a candidate for public office, but running for office without the money and campaign workers a party can provide is difficult.

Minor political parties-generally referred to as “third parties”-occasionally form in the United States, but their candidates are rarely elected to office.

---

**1. Larry Berman, Bruce Allen Murphy, “Approaching Democracy”, U.S. 2007, p.314**

Minor parties often serve, however, to call attention to an issue that is of concern to voters, but has been neglected in the political dialogue. When this happens, one or both of the major parties may address the matter, and the third party disappears.

At the national level, elections are held every two years; in even-numbered years, on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November. State and local elections often coincide with national elections, but they also are held in other years and can take place at other times of year.

Americans are free to determine how much or how little they become involved in the political process. Many citizens actively participate by working as volunteers for a candidate, by promoting a particular cause, or by running for office themselves. Others restrict their participation to voting on election day, quietly letting their democratic system work, confident that their freedoms are protected. <sup>1</sup>

## **PARTIES ORGANIZE THE ELECTION PROCESS**

A party’s most basic role is to nominate candidates and win elections. True, citizens need not belong to political party to run for office, but to win high elective office a candidate must, with few exceptions, belong to one of the two major Americans

political parties. Every president since 1853 has been either a Democrat or a Republican. All of the state governors belonged to major parties. The stability of this pattern is impressive. For more than a century, the rule for any ambitious politician has been simple: To build a serious career in public life, first join either the Democratic or the Republican party. When dissatisfied, however, an elected politician can always switch parties. Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama in 1994 switched to the Republican party after finding that, in the early Clinton years, he lacked the White House influence he had expected. But this change, which gave the Republicans a six-vote margin in the Senate, failed to equal the profound policy-making impact of Jim Jeffords' 2001 switch, which changed the party balance of the entire Senate body.

---

### **1. Maura Christopher, "Portrait of the USA." U.S. Department of State, 2005**

Winning office is crucial to party fortunes. Party members spend much time and energy on the election process. Parties select candidates, provide money to local, state, and national races and arrange administrative support at all levels of electoral competition. They begin this work with the vital function of recruitment. Parties continually look for effective, popular candidates to help them win votes and offices. Since 2000, both parties have had increasing difficulty persuading rising political figures to run for Congress, even for open or highly winnable seats.

Parties' search for successful campaigners serves another key function: representation. To win free and democratic elections, parties follow a crucial axiom: Find out what voters want and promise to give it to them. No matter who is elected, the winners attempt to remain committed to the popular programs on which they campaigned. Following this logic, parties must act responsibly and legislate the policies they promised. Parties elected under pledges to carry out a specific set of policies know that voters will judge them at the next election. Did they do what they promised? If not, voters can (and often do) reject them in favor of their rivals. The potential for punishment of this keeps parties under serious pressure when writing their platforms. Backing away from or even flip-flopping on a public commitment can often produce a devastating backlash.



In the long run, this open competition for power serves the voting public. By recruiting good candidates, representing voter wishes, and being held responsible for their actions in office, the two parties help Americans approach the democratic ideal of government.<sup>1</sup>

---

**1. John Aldrich, “Before the Convention-Strategies and Choices in Presidential Nomination Campaigns”. Chicago, 1980**

## **12. ELECTIONS**

American citizens who are at least 18 years of age have the right to vote. They must, however, register as voters in order to be able to exercise this right. Each state has the right to determine registration procedures.

A number of civic groups, such as the League of women Voters, are actively trying to get more people involved in the electoral process and have drives to register as many people as possible. Voter registration and voting among minorities has dramatically increased during the last twenty years, especially as a result of the Civil Rights movement.

There is some concern, however, about the number of citizens who could vote in national elections but do not. In the national election of 1988, for instance, only 57.4 percent of all those who could have voted actually did, and in 1992, 61.3 percent. But then, Americans who want to vote must register, that is put down their names in a register before the actual elections take place. There are 50 different registration laws in the U.S.-

one set for each state. In the South, voters often have to register not only locally but also at the county seat.

The Parties in the United States, as they have historically developed, are sort of umbrella parties.

They go from left to right in both parties. We have a situation where conservatives in the Democratic Party and conservatives in the Republican party are just about the same conservatives, except that they are in a different part of the country, or are from a different historical development in a given state, or are from a city where their parties had their particular historic roots.

Traditionally in the United States we find that about 41 percent of the American voters are Democrats. We find that about 22 or 23 percent are Republicans, while the rest may vote Democratic or Republican, or register Democratic or Republican. In fact, they are actually Independents who vote either on the issue, or the personality involved, not out of any party loyalty.

Fervent membership and discipline are lacking in the Republican and Democratic parties in the United States. To become a Democrat or a Republican and to be eligible to vote all you have to do is register with the local government. Some Republicans and Democrats contribute to their chosen party and have a sort of contribution card, but there is no membership card as such. There are some active Republican and Democratic membership organizations, but in general terms the membership is very loose, informal, and often only nominal.

Also, it is quite obvious that millions of Democrats voted for President Eisenhower (rep. 1953-61), President Nixon and President Reagan, because there were not enough Republicans to elect them.

In recent years the differences between the parties in very general terms have been that the Democrats have been more in favor of public sector development and governmental solutions to national and international problems. This is partly because the main coalition that gave strength to the Democrats from the Franklin Roosevelt period to the present was made up of labor groups, minority groups, and intellectuals. In the American political spectrum, these people tended to be to the "left", or to the side of collective and governmental activity. More people in the Republican party have tended to

emphasize private enterprise, individual effort, and less government control and regulation.

These are only very broad generalizations; often there are few ideological differences. Often there is more difference within the parties. In fact, one thing that often surprises people from other countries, particularly from parliamentary systems, is that during some fights in the Congress you find Republicans and Democrats voting together against another coalition of Republicans and Democrats. The congressmen are voting, supposedly, to represent their voters` or constituents` needs at home. If they are from a farm constituency or an industrial constituency, they may vote in the interest of their supporters instead of down a Republican or Democratic party line.

## FEDERALISM

By dividing power not only among the branches of the national government but also between the national and the state governments, the Constitution created a system known as federalism. The framers of the Constitution had no real alternative to establishing a federal system, one in which certain powers are granted to the national government and the rest are retained by the states. They could not abolish the thirteen original states or deny them most of their governing powers, but they could and did establish a national government with independent powers and leave intact state powers that were not exclusively delegated to the national government. Thus, each state retained its own government based on its own constitution. Individuals were to be subject to both state and national laws. This division between the national government and the states has decentralized much of the politics of American democracy so that those politics remain responsive to the growing heterogeneity of the United States.

The Constitution reserved to the states all powers not granted to the national government and not expressly denied to the states. These reserved powers are supplemented by other powers not given exclusively to the national government. Known

as concurrent powers because they are exercised by both the national government and the states, they include the powers to tax citizens, regulate commerce, and make and enforce criminal laws. Rarely do state laws directly contradict federal law. More common-and more troubling-are cases involving the concurrent powers of the national and state governments, such as the powers to tax and regulate commerce. Conflicts between the national and the state governments are ultimately decided by the Supreme Court. For instance, when state and federal laws governing highway safety or telecommunications come into conflict, the Court must decide whether Congress has preempted (seized for oneself before others) state regulations or whether the existence of a variety of different state laws interferes with the need for uniform national regulations.<sup>1</sup>

Throughout the nation's history, the Court has generally supported the authority of the national government to regulate interstate commerce and has increasingly interpreted that authority broadly. But within the last two decades, it has also issued several rulings acknowledging the powers and authorities of states at the expense of the national government.

The fifty states are quite diverse in size, population, climate, economy, history, and interests. The fifty state governments often differ from one another, too. Because they often approach political, social, or economic questions differently, the states have been called "laboratories of democracy."

---

**1. Stephen J. Wayne, G. Calvin Mackenzie "Conflict and Consensus in American Politics, p.50**

However, they do share certain basic structures. The individual states all have republican forms of government with a senate and a house. (There is one exception, Nebraska, which has only one legislative body of 49 "Senators".) <sup>1</sup> All have executive branches headed by state governors and independent court systems. Each state also has its own constitution. But all must respect the federal laws and not make laws that interfere with those of other states (for example, someone who is divorced under the laws of one state is legally divorced in all.) Likewise, cities, and local authorities must make their laws and regulations so that they fit their own state's constitution.

The U.S. Constitution limits the federal government to only very specific powers, but modern judicial interpretations of the Constitution have expanded federal responsibilities. All others automatically belong to the states and to the local communities. This has meant that there had always been a battle between the federal and state's rights/ the traditional American distrust of a too powerful central government has kept the battle fairly even over the years. The states and local communities in the U.S. have rights that in other countries generally belong to the central government.

All education at any level, for example, is the concern of the states. The local communities have the real control at the public school level. They control administration of the schools. They elect the school board officials, and their local community taxes largely support the schools. Each individual school system, therefore, hires and fires and pays its own teachers. It sets its own policies within broad state guidelines. Similarly, the U.S. does not have a national police force.

The FBI is limited to handling a very few federal crimes, for instance kidnapping. Each state has its own state police and its own criminal laws (and the police from one state have no legal powers in any other). The same is true with, for example, marriage and divorce laws, driving laws and licenses, drinking laws, and voting procedures. In turn, each city has its own police force that it hires, trains, controls, and organizes. Neither the President nor the governor of a state has direct power over it. By the way, police departments of counties are called "sheriffs' departments." Sheriffs are usually elected, but state and city police officials are not.

---

### **1. Douglas K. Stevenson "American Life and Institutions" p. 45**

There are many other areas which are also the concern of cities, towns, and villages. Among these are the opening and closing hours for stores, streets and road repair, or architectural laws and other regulations. Also, one local community might decide that a certain magazine is pornographic and forbid its sale, or a local school board might determine that a certain novel should not be in their school library. (A court, however, may later tell the community or school board that they have unfairly attempted to exercise censorship). But another village, a few miles down the road, might accept both.

The same is true of films. Unlike in a number of other countries, a national “censor” of books or films does not exist in the United States.

Most states and some cities have their own income taxes. Many cities and counties also have their own laws saying who may and may not own a gun. Many airports, some of them international, are owned and controlled by cities or counties and have their own airport police. Finally, a great many of the most hotly debated questions, which in other countries are decided at the national level, are in America settled by the individual states and communities. Among these are, for example, laws about drug use, capital punishment, and abortion. In the U.S., for example, there is no single national law about capital punishment. Rather, at present there are 55 different sets of laws (the fifty states, the Federal Government, and four territories) with 19 of them having no death penalty. Some states, Wisconsin, for instance, have never had one, and Michigan abolished the death penalty in 1847. Of the 36 states which have the death penalty in their laws, 16 have executed convicted criminals since 1976, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that capital punishment was not, in specific legal definitions, unconstitutional.

A connecting thread that runs all the way through governments in the U.S. is the “accountability” of politicians, officials, agencies, and governmental groups. This means that information and records on crimes, fires, marriages, and divorces, court cases, property taxes, etc. are public information. It means, for example, that when a small town needs to build a school or buy a new police car, how much it will cost (and which company offered what at what cost) will be in the local newspaper. In some cities, meetings of the city council are carried live on radio. As a rule, politicians in the U.S. at any level pay considerable attention to public opinion. Ordinary citizens participate actively and directly in decisions that concern them. In some states, such as California, in fact, citizens can petition to have questions (i.g., “propositions”) put on the ballot in state elections. If the proposition is approved by the voters, it then becomes law. This “grass roots” character of American democracy can also be seen in New England town meetings or at the public hearings of local school boards.

Adding this up, America has an enormous variety in its governmental bodies. Its system tries to satisfy the needs and wishes of people at the local level, while at the same time the Constitution guarantees basic rights to anyone, anywhere in America. This has

been very important, for instance, to the Civil Rights Movement and its struggle to secure equal rights for all Americans, regardless of race, place of residence, or state voting laws. Therefore, although the states control their own elections as well as the registration procedures for national elections, they cannot make laws that would go against an individual's constitutional rights.<sup>1</sup>

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Americans, always concerned that their politicians represent their interests, often form "pressure" groups, political lobbies, public action committees (PACs), or special interest groups (SIGs). Such groups seek to influence politicians on almost any imaginable subject. One group might campaign for a nationwide, federal gun-control law, while another group opposes it. Tobacco companies in North Carolina are not too happy about the strong health warnings that must call for pupils to be allowed to pray in school, if they wish, or they campaign against state and federal money being given for abortions. Ethnic groups often want certain foreign policies put into effect with their friends or foes. Tax payers in a number of states have protested against rising taxes and initiated legislation setting limits to taxation. Some labor unions want illegal immigration controlled. And, not surprisingly, some pressure groups stopped and lobby against lobbyists.

---

**1. Stephen J. Wayne. "Conflict and Consensus in American Politics", U.S.A. 2007, p. 66.**

Such groups of citizens have also helped to weaken the political parties. Each individual politician must pay close attention to the special concerns and causes of his or her voters. What is amazing is how well so many different governmental groups, with their many ethnic and cultural and business and geographical interests, do seem to manage the affairs of those they were chosen to represent. But then, the great variety of local, regional, and state governments does help to fulfill the wishes of the many different constituencies. If New Yorkers want their city-owned university to be free to any city

resident that is their business. If a small town in the mountains of Colorado decides that snow-mobiles have the right-of-way on city streets, that's theirs. And if a country in Arkansas decides that fireworks or hard liquor will not be sold within its limits, well, that's its right, too. <sup>1</sup>

### 13. Vacationing in the U.S.





## Seeing the Sights

Most American workers receive an annual vacation of at least two weeks with pay, and it's traditional to use this time off for travel. Americans who have enough time and money are free to go almost anywhere. Getting a passport is a routine matter. Millions of Americans vacation abroad each year, but it's also possible to spend a lifetime of vacations in the U.S.A. and never run out of variety. This chapter will describe some of the most popular U.S. tourist spots.

Since Vacations are usually family affairs, the most popular vacation periods are during the summer and during the 2-week school break surrounding the Christmas and New Year's holidays. These periods are also the most crowded and generally the most expensive times to travel, so people who can, usually vacation at other times.

The automobile is probably the least expensive way to travel, especially for families. It is also fairly fast and convenient. The excellent interstate highway system connects the nation's major cities and makes travel easy with its many motels and restaurants. Tourists in a hurry often fly to their destination and rent a car when they get there.

Cameras in hand, Americans sightsee with great enthusiasm. Then, they come home well equipped to bore their neighbors with snapshots, slides, and / or videos, showing off where they've been and what they've done.

One important American contribution to vacation fun is the theme park. Theme parks are a variation on the outdoor entertainment complexes called amusement parks, which were so popular from the 1890s to the 1960s. Like amusement parks, theme parks have carnival games, rides, shows, displays, shops that sell souvenirs, and restaurants and food stands. But theme parks tend to be much larger and more high-tech than the older amusement parks. Furthermore, they are not just assorted outdoor activities in one location. They are developed around a theme or idea, such as American or regional history, marine life, water sports, or African safaris. Many are quite educational as well as entertaining. Theme parks have great appeal to people of all ages and are often a family's primary vacation destination. As a result, American amusement and theme parks combined take in about \$7 billion a year!

Walt Disney, the famous American cartoonist and filmmaker, started it all in 1955 when he opened the first theme park, Disneyland, near Los Angeles, California. Its theme is children's stories, specifically those that were made into Disney animated films. Disney

cartoon characters such as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck are also featured.

Disneyland's great success inspired the building of parks elsewhere in the U.S. and Europe. The largest is Walt Disney World, the most popular vacation spot in the world. This complex covers 43 square miles near Orlando, Florida. It includes four major theme parks plus several minor ones. First, there's the Magic Kingdom, which is similar to Disneyland. In addition to the wonderful rides, visitors love its amazing mechanical figures that appear in many exhibits—everything from dancing, singing bears to a life-sized, gesturing, speech-giving Abraham Lincoln. The second park, Epcot Center, contains two main sections: Future World highlights technologies of the future; World Showcase features the architecture, crafts, food, and entertainment of 11 nations. The third park, Disney-MGM, Studios, has Hollywood movie-making as its theme. The newest park—Animal Kingdom—has about 1,000 animals, including some rare and endangered ones. The Walt Disney World complex includes four lakes and about 100 restaurants. It's impossible to see and do everything in Walt Disney World, even in several days. A visitor needs two important things—a pair of comfortable shoes and the patience to stand in long lines.

Disney is not the only American company in the theme park business. Six Flags has 14 theme parks and 3 water parks across the U.S. Six Flags Great America (near Chicago) has two themes—regions of the U.S. and comic strip characters. Six Flags over Texas (in Arlington, Texas) focuses on the history of Texas and the U.S. Many theme parks are combinations of amusement parks and zoos. In some (such as Great Adventure in Jackson, New Jersey, and Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida), animals roam freely on huge areas of land and tourists drive or ride trains through the territory. Marine animal theme parks (such as Sea World in Orlando, Florida, and San Diego, California) have live dolphin shows. Around the country, there are many smaller theme parks built around water activities, where swimmers can cool off on water slides and in wave pools.

## **Sightseeing in the Eastern Cities**

The nation's major cities are among the most popular tourist attractions. New York City, with a population exceeding 7 million, is the largest city in the U.S. With a magnificent natural harbor and more than 500 miles of waterfront, it is also the largest port in the world. The city has five sections, called boroughs. The best-known, and in many ways most

important, borough is Manhattan, the commercial, cultural, and financial center of the city. Manhattan is an island connected to the other boroughs (Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island) by bridges, tunnels, and ferries.

All year, tourists crowd the streets and hotels of Manhattan. They visit the skyscrapers, particularly the impressive World Trade Center. The World Trade Center's twin towers are 110 stories (411 meters or 1,350 feet) high, making them the second-tallest skyscrapers in the U.S. Tourists visit museums and art galleries, shop in the city's department stores and specialty shops, and dine in elegant restaurants. Other attractions are the United Nations building, the New York Stock Exchange, Rockefeller Center, and the Metropolitan Opera. This world-famous opera company performs at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, a group of buildings that also houses concert halls, theaters, and the Juilliard School of Music, Drama, and Dance.

Live entertainment is plentiful in New York City. In addition to its many nightclubs for music and comedy, the city is the nation's most important area for theater. Plays performed "on Broadway" (in the larger midtown Manhattan theaters near the street called Broadway) often involve famous playwrights, producers, and performers. Smaller "off-Broadway" theaters feature less well known actors and sometimes more experimental productions.

New York City is also the home of a famous symbol—the Statue of Liberty.<sup>1</sup> This enormous figure of a woman has been standing in New York Harbor since 1886. It was designed by two Frenchmen—the exterior by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi and the interior by Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel (creator of the Eiffel Tower in Paris)—and given to the United States by the French government. The Statue of Liberty is one of the largest statues in the world. Its height (from the tip of its torch to the base of the pedestal) is about 305 feet (93 meters), and its weight exceeds 200 tons (181,818 kg). The statue symbolizes American freedom and opportunity. Years ago, it welcomed nearly all American immigrants as they arrived in the United States by ship. Today, tourists take a 15-minute ferryboat ride to Liberty Island to get a closer look at the figure. Some even take the long climb up the stairs inside the statue to reach the viewing platform below its crown.

Vacationers interested in American history and government find the eastern part of

---

<sup>1</sup> Ethel Tiersky. Martin Tiersky. "The U.S.A. Customs and Institutions". New York, 2001. p. 220.

the country fascinating. In Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, visitors can watch Congress in action in the Capitol, attend a session of the Supreme Court, and tour the White House, the home of the president. The Smithsonian Institution, with its many museums and art galleries, offers much of historical interest. Its exhibits include gowns of the First Ladies and the Wright brothers' first airplane. In Washington, there are also magnificent monuments to see. Most impressive are the memorials honoring Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

One sad but beautiful monument is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It is a V-shaped black granite wall bearing the names of 58,000 Americans killed or missing in Vietnam. It was designed by a young Chinese-American architecture student named Maya Lin.

For American history buffs, the East has other interesting cities as well. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the site of the building where the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. Boston, Massachusetts, has many colonial landmarks. In Virginia, there is colonial Williamsburg, with its 88 restored eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century buildings

## Visiting the Midwest

Chicago, long known as the "Second City," became the nation's third-largest city in terms of population in 1982, when Los Angeles surpassed it. With a population of almost 3 million, Chicago remains the largest city in the Midwest and the most interesting one as well. Tourists come to Chicago to visit its many fine theaters, restaurants, museums, and stores. The city's Outer Drive expressway along Lake Michigan gives visitors a scenic view of the beaches, harbors, parks, and skyscrapers. The city's most famous skyscraper is Sears Tower, the tallest building in the U.S.—1,454 feet (443 meters) high. Chicago is also famous for its modern architecture and impressive works of outdoor sculpture by internationally known artists, including Pablo Picasso and Alexander Calder. Other major attractions are the Museum of Science and Industry, with its exhibits showing applications of science to industry, and Buckingham Fountain, the world's largest lighted fountain, which is a beautiful multicolored sight on a summer evening.

St. Louis, the largest city in Missouri, is on the west bank of the Mississippi, the nation's longest river. During the 1800s, St. Louis was considered the gateway to the West. Today, tourists visiting the city cannot miss the beautiful Gateway Arch (the nation's

tallest monument), designed by Eero Saarinen. Rising 630 feet (192 meters), it dominates the city's skyline. Inside the arch, there are small cars that carry visitors to the top.

On the western edge of the Midwest, in a section of the country often called the Great Plains, is South Dakota, home of Mount Rushmore. Here, carved into the rocks are enormous heads of four great American presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. The heads are so big that they are visible from 62 miles away!

## Visiting the South

One of the most popular American vacation states is Florida. Its tropical climate and beautiful sand beaches make it a year-round vacationland. Florida is ideal for water sports and for sightseeing as well. Besides Walt Disney World and other theme parks, tourists come to see the Everglades, one of the largest and most interesting swamp areas in the world, with its many unusual plants and birds; the John F. Kennedy Space Center on Cape Canaveral; and St. Augustine, the oldest permanent European settlement in the U.S.A.

New Orleans, Louisiana, a port city with exotic appeal, is located on the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico. It contains many reminders of Old Europe and the Old South. The famous French Quarter, the Mardi Gras festival, and the Creoles (French-speaking descendants of early European settlers) all give the city an international flavor. New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz and also celebrates another form of uniquely American music—"Dixieland."

## Westward, Ho!

The West attracts tourists with vastly different tastes. The Rocky Mountains of Colorado draw skiers and snowmobilers. The casinos and nightclubs of Las Vegas, Nevada, attract vacationers who enjoy gambling and big-name entertainment. And the national parks in the West are a popular destination for vacationers interested in beautiful scenery, natural wonders, and wildlife. The Grand Canyon in Arizona attracts about 5 million visitors a year. Its huge, colorful rock formations are 277 miles long, 17 miles across, and more than a mile deep at the lowest point. The nation's largest national park—Yellowstone—covers about 3,500 square miles in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Yellowstone contains the world's greatest geyser area, as well as spectacular waterfalls. Two other popular national parks in the West are

Glacier National Park in Montana and Yosemite in California.

California offers a wealth of vacation experiences, especially for families. Because there is so much to see along California's Pacific Coast, travelers often fly there, then rent a car and drive up or down the mountain highway alongside the ocean, stopping at interesting cities and towns along the way, including, of course, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Most California tourists want to see Los Angeles (L.A.), the nation's second-largest city. One section of L.A.—Hollywood—is the home of the American movie industry. People interested in films can spend a day at the Universal Movie Studios and get an idea of how movies are made. Driving around to see the fabulous homes of movie stars is another favorite L.A. pastime. So is shopping (or just looking) in the elegant shops on Rodeo Drive, where it's easy to find a \$3,000 suit if you happen to need one.<sup>1 1</sup>

San Francisco is one of the hilliest and most cosmopolitan of American cities. Situated between the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, San Francisco is the leading seaport of the Pacific Coast. Ships come and go beneath its beautiful Golden Gate Bridge. Cable cars clang loudly as they climb the city's steep hills. San Francisco is famous for its bridges, cable cars, breathtaking scenery, and fine dining—seafood on Fisherman's Wharf and Asian cuisine in Chinatown. And San Francisco visitors usually take a drive up to Muir Woods to see the giant sequoia (coastal redwood) trees. This type of tree is among the Earth's oldest and tallest living things. Some California sequoias are more than 2,000 years old and taller than a 30-story building!

For travelers with the time and money to go even farther west, the country's newest states—Alaska and Hawaii—offer many wonders. Northwest of the U.S. mainland is Alaska, an amazing land of contrasts. To start with, it is the largest state in land area but one of the smallest in population. It is more than twice the size of Texas, but its population is only about 600,000. About 54,000 of its residents are of Asian descent—Inuits (Eskimos) and Aleuts. Alaska's climate and geography are also quite varied. Its sights include smoking volcanoes, grassy plains, rain forests, about 3 million lakes, 100,000 glaciers, and many high mountains including Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America. In some areas, the winter temperature can go down as low as -80° F (-62° C). In the northernmost part of Alaska, the sun doesn't set for 80 days in the summer; and for 50 days in the winter, it doesn't rise.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ethel Tiersky. Martin Tiersky. "The U.S.A. Customs and Institutions". New York, 2001, p. 224.

Understandably, tourists tend to visit Alaska in the summer, when they can enjoy the milder weather and endless daylight.

Hawaii lies in the Pacific Ocean about 2,000 miles west of the U.S. mainland. It is made up of 20 tropical islands, including 8 major ones. The most densely populated island is Oahu, where the capital city of Honolulu is located. Oahu's Waikiki- Beach, lined with hotels and apartment houses, is an international tourist attraction. The scenic island of Hawaii, almost twice the size of the others combined, has tall mountain peaks, forests, waterfalls, and the world's most active volcano (Kilauea). Since 1983, this island has grown more than 70 acres, thanks to the lava flow from Kilauea. The nation's fiftieth state has a diverse population, including many residents of Japanese, Filipino, and Chinese descent.

### **Planning a Vacation**

When planning a vacation, what do people want most? A change of scene. Folks who live in small towns or rural areas are eager to see big cities. On the other hand, for this nation's urban population, the change of scene desired may be greater contact with nature, the great outdoors. There are many ways to enjoy nature besides visiting the vast (and usually crowded) national parks. Some families rent summer cottages near swimming and boating facilities. Some camp out (sleep outdoors) in tents. Some rent a houseboat and cruise down the Mississippi. Dude ranches in the West attract those who love horses or want to learn how to ride. Resorts cater to vacationers who want comfort and good meals, along with access to tennis, golf, swimming facilities, and wide open spaces.

How can one plan the perfect vacation? Guidebooks and travel magazines offer ideas. State tourist bureaus will gladly send information. Travel agencies are eager to assist with advice and reservations. But the best travel tips of all probably come from word of mouth, from people who have been there. So, if you're planning an American vacation, ask Americans about their favorite spot. You'll get an earful, along with a huge stack of photos to look at.

## 14. WELFARE

### SOCIAL SECURITY AND POVERTY

The process of governmental provision for social security in the United States was slow; now this system is almost comprehensive, with some serious gaps, as well as variations between the states. Traditionally society chose private action. When it became evident that private measures needed to be supplemented by government action, federal, state and local governments were involved; the quality of welfare services varies from place to place.

For both old age and illness, provision is now partly private, partly public. Most working Americans make provision for their retirement, through savings, investment and insurance policies, company or union pension funds. Federal government social security provides pensions for retired people, and also unemployment benefit for six months, based on compulsory contributions by people at work.

The pension rate corresponds to income above the official poverty line, and sufficient for minimal comfort, whereas a quarter of median earnings from employment. It is not connected with a person's income from private pensions.

---

#### **1. Douglas K. Stevenson "American Life and Institutions" p.66**

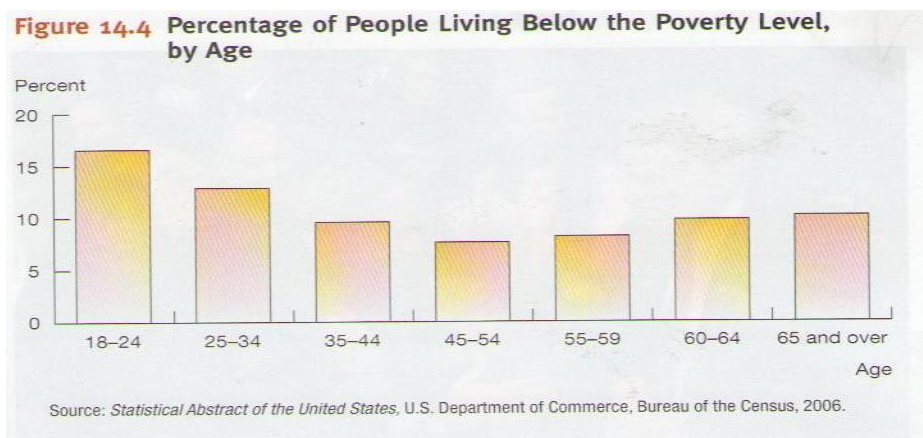
Handicapped people and victims of industrial accidents or of illnesses caused by working conditions are also provided with Social Security benefits. However, if a person is handicapped as a result of another person or corporation, defined by a court of law, the damages awarded may be very high; in such a case the victims do not need to ask for social security benefits.

Unemployment benefits, payable for six month, are small in relation to average wages; and there is a little security against sudden loss of work. In 1881-6 about ten



million people lost their jobs as a result of plant closures or other reductions, and most of these were dismissed without warning or real compensation. One in three of these people still had no jobs in 1987, whereas many other found new jobs with lower wages than before. In California some of these people claimed compensation in the courts for wrongful dismissal, and successful ones were awarded half a million dollars.

Federal Social Security Administration recalculates the “poverty level income, depending on the number of people in the household.



Although according many standards the United States is the richest country in the world, the distribution of wealth and income among its citizens is rather unequal. Since 1965 the income gap between poor and rich Americans has increased, as well as the poverty rate among children and among households headed by women. According today’s estimate 20 percent of all children under the age of eighteen live in poor households.

Before the 1930s, the United States had no social-welfare policy. In response to the Depression, the Social Security Act of 1935 established federally funded social-welfare programs in the U.S. <sup>1</sup>

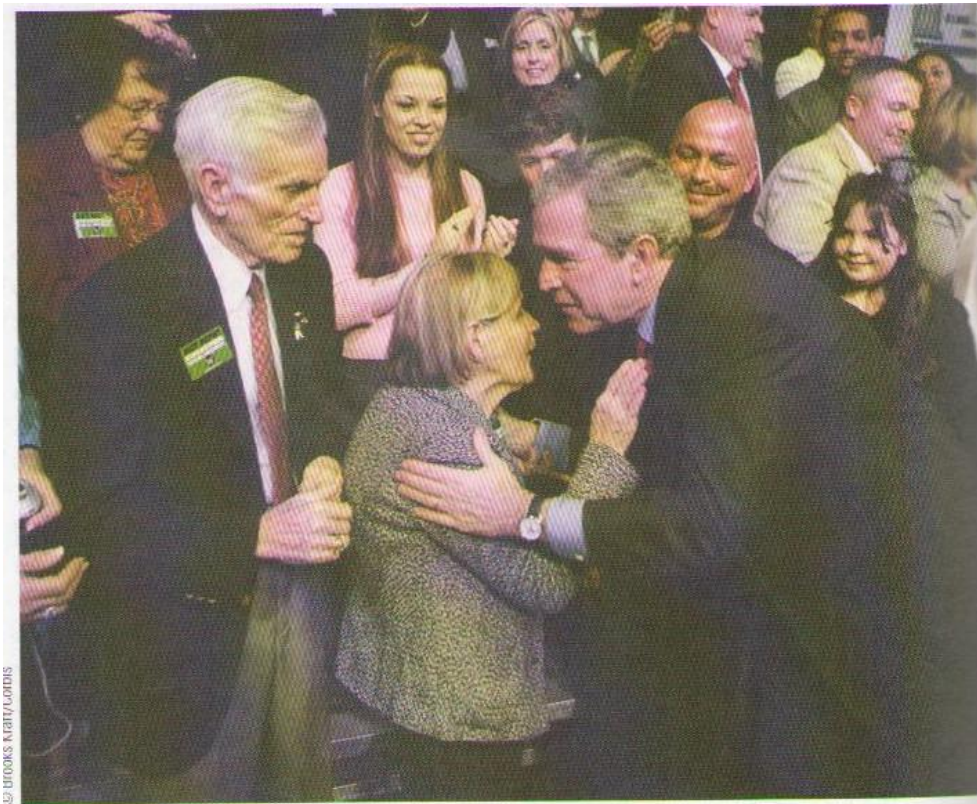
## SOCIAL INSURANCE

The basic social insurance programs in the U.S. are old age, survivors, and disability insurance, known as Social security, Medicare, and unemployment insurance.

**Social Security**, provides monthly payments to retired and disabled workers and to survivors of workers. Each employee and employer pays 6.2 percent of the employee's income, up to an annual level of \$90,000, into the social security trust fund. (self-employed people must pay both the employer's and the employee's share, or 12.4 percent. Workers who retire at the age of 62 qualify for partial Social Security payments, if they worked for about ten years. Workers may receive full benefits at the age of sixty-five; over the next few years this age requirement will rise to sixty-five, but over the next few years the age requirement will rise to sixty-eight.

---

1. Stephen J. Wayne, G Calvin Mackenzie, "Conflict and Consensus". U.S. 2007, p.550, p.552



President Bush campaigning for his Social Security reform proposal before an audience gathered at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville, Ky., March 10, 2005.

Practically the amount an individual receives depends on age of retirement, category of recipient (employee or survivor), and average income over a period of years. In 2005, more than 45 million Americans received social security benefits, with average monthly payment of \$874 for retired workers.

Because of the increasing aged population- “ grey power” in the U.S., many analysts predict that Social Security fund as it exists in present, will not be able to provide full benefits to all retirees by 2042.

As it was argued that in 201 Social security will start taking in-less payroll tax revenue than it pays out in benefits, President Bush in 2005 proposed considerable changes to the system. The president’s proposal called for individuals to have the option of setting up personal accounts that would be theirs and could be left to whomever they wished. Though individuals who established these accounts would receive less from the Social Security trust fund than those who chose not to do so. The president also suggested

people with higher income should receive less money than those with lower incomes. Democrats, opposed the president`s plan immediately opposing the personal accounts. <sup>1</sup>

Despite having the world`s most advanced system of medical care, the U.S. is the only major industrialized country without a national health, insurance system, and about 47 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured. Thus many Americans live in the condition of economic insecurity, worsening by the fear of medical expenses, rising faster than the general rate of inflation.

In 1965, the **Medicare health insurance** program was added to the Social Security package as part of President Johnson`s Great Social proposals. Medicare pays part of the costs of hospital bills and part of physician`s fees for retired people- age sixty-five and older. It is also financed by payroll (total sum of wages paid during a pay period) tax to which employees and employers contribute 2.9 percent of earned wages. The 1988 amendments to the Medicare program provide protection against the costs of catastrophic illness.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

A program enacted as part of the 1935 Social Security Act, **unemployment insurance** is designed to pay benefits to people who lose their jobs. It is financed jointly by the federal government and the states through taxes paid by employers and in some cases by employees as well.

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The 1935 Social Security Act established three public-assistance programs: old-age assistance, aid to the blind, and a program eventually called Aid to Families with Dependent children. In 1950, aid to permanently and totally disabled was enacted. In 1964, Congress established the food stamp program.

1. **Stephen J. Wayne, G Calvin Mackenzie, “Conflict and Consensus”.**  
**U.S. 2007, p.55**

## TRANSPORTATION

In colonial America the primitive means of transportation were used: you could go on foot or by horse, by wagon, ship, or boat. But the land had no roads. Even during Revolution, travel across any distance was a great problem. By 1790 there were less than four million people in the United States. Most Americans were farmers and except for some areas in New England, did not live together in villages as it was common in Europe. Many of them lived on isolated farms, miles from larger towns and used farmer's tracks for bringing goods to market. Such roads often turned into mud-filled lakes.

## ROADS

Narrow paths, used by the Indians and animals they hunted were only roads to the frontier. Wilderness Road started in 1775 by Daniel Boone. It ran for 500 Kilometers from eastern Tennessee to the Ohio River. Still it took the young Republic with little money and less labor available twenty more years to build the road fit to be used by wagons through mountains. By 1816, though, Maine and Georgia had been joined by a single route.

In 1818 the National Road, or Cumberland Road had been built by the federal Government. It started at Cumberland, Maryland, and reached the Ohio River, Indiana, Illinois, St. Louise, a distance of more than 800 Kilometers.

Road construction was very expensive. However, Americans followed the European system and involved private companies in road-building. Later they collected tolls from those who used the roads. Out of the hundreds of companies that built toll roads (a payment demanded for passage), most never made a profit or got their investment back. They were too expensive for truck drivers, who practically avoided the

tolls. Anyway, by 1811 New York State had 2,500 km. of roads constructed this way. IN 1830 Pennsylvania had over 3,000 km. of quite good roads.

## WATERWAYS

From the colonial days up until the railroad became the main transportation after the Civil War, travel by water was the major means of transportation for passengers and freight as well. Most of American's largest cities first grew along ocean harbors, rivers and later canals. As there were enormous forests of hard and soft woods in America, shipbuilding soon became the main industry in New England and the Middle Atlantic colonies. From 1820 until the Civil War, the United States was the leading maritime (navigation on the sea) nation.

The greatest achievement of American shipbuilding was the clipper (a ship built for great speed). In 1832 Donald McKay, a Yankee (native inhabitant of a Northern State) builder of clippers, became a legendary figure for his beautiful designs and fast ships. As these ships traveled very fast, they received most of the business from British tea merchants and soon British shipbuilders started building their own clippers using American designs.

The "gold rush" in California in 1849 stimulated the growth of the clipper industry. Hundreds of ships made the trip to San Francisco and stopped in the harbor while their crews proceeded for the gold fields. It took McKay's most famous clipper "the Flying Cloud" 89 days to run between New York and San Francisco. However this romantic period ended, as steamships appeared. In 1807, "Clermont", the first successful steamboat appeared on the Hudson River in New York.

By the 1830s there were already many steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. These steamboats carried immigrants, soldiers, frontiersmen, salesmen, gamblers, churchmen, journalists to the West to explore, describe and settle in new territories. They carried as well cattle, cotton, lumber, manufactured goods from the East and expensive furniture from Europe.

Canals also played enormous role in taking settlers and immigrants to new areas. The most famous was the Erie Canal (1825) in New York State which connected the Hudson River with Lake Erie at Buffalo. This 580 km. waterway opened up the Great Lakes region and the huge Ohio Territory to settlers. Lumber, grain, and meat became possible to be brought to New York more cheaply than by taking it down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans and then up the Atlantic coasts.

## **RAILROADS**

Already in 1833 the first railroad in South Carolina and Georgia was the longest in the world at that time. By 1850s, all states, located in the east of the Mississippi had been connected by railroads. Trains could go where boats and ships could not, especially in parts where there were fewer large rivers. The government gave many railroads land for building tracks and lent them money at a low rate of interest. Millions of immigrants reached the new territories using railroads, Fresh meat, fruits and vegetables could be transported more quickly. Food became less expensive. The materials necessary for constructing railroads encouraged the iron and steel industries. Two companies, the Central Pacific, starting in the east of the Pacific, and the Union Pacific, constructing Westward, competed to get the largest share of federal land and money. It was hard work for thousands of workers, many of them Chinese and Irish immigrants. It took six years to complete the 2, 900 km. link. The two lines met in Utah on May 10, 1869.<sup>1</sup> In 1860 the amount of freight carried by trains equaled the amount carried on canals, although transporting heavy or bulk cargoes such as iron ore, coal, lumber, cement, grain has always been cheaper, but slower by water.

## **CONTEMPORARY RAILROAD**

If the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were considered as the “golden age” of the railroads in America, their role for passenger service has declined since then. In 1971, Congress created Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, to improve intercity rail passenger service; its system is connecting about 500 cities and towns in 44 states.

Although, it should be mentioned, that Amtrak is of relatively little importance compared with railroad transport in Germany, France or Britain.

---

### **1. Douglas K. Stevenson. “American Life and Institutions” p. 81**

The Amtrak system works best in densely populated areas where distances are short and getting to and from airports is inconvenient and expensive. For example, between Washington and New York Amtrak trains carry about 18.000 people daily.

On the longer distances, however, it can not compete with the airplane. Freight trains, on the other hand, are still of great importance, for carrying bulk goods, such as coal or grain. Today trains are cheaper and more efficient than trucks. It was estimated in 1995, that no other country in the world had such a modern rail freight system and no other system operated at a profit without government subsidies.

## **THE CAR CULTURE**

The mass-produced car, the truck and the bus-was a real revolution that happened earlier in America, than in other western industrialized countries.

The United States has highly developed transportation system, a huge network of roads and highways which enables Americans to travel freely and comfortably wherever they wish. The American interstate highway system the non-stop, interconnected “motorways”-stretches for about 72, 000 km. In the U.S. there are more cars and trucks and buses per person than anywhere else. Only in California about 17 million automobiles are registered. For many people America is one big parking lot, packed with cars and trucks. However, such images are misleading. Urban areas only take up less than 2 percent of the country’s total land areas. It’s noteworthy to remark, that in the U.S. today (a country about 30 times the size of Italy, and about 40 times the size of the United Kingdom) one-third of the land is covered by forests.

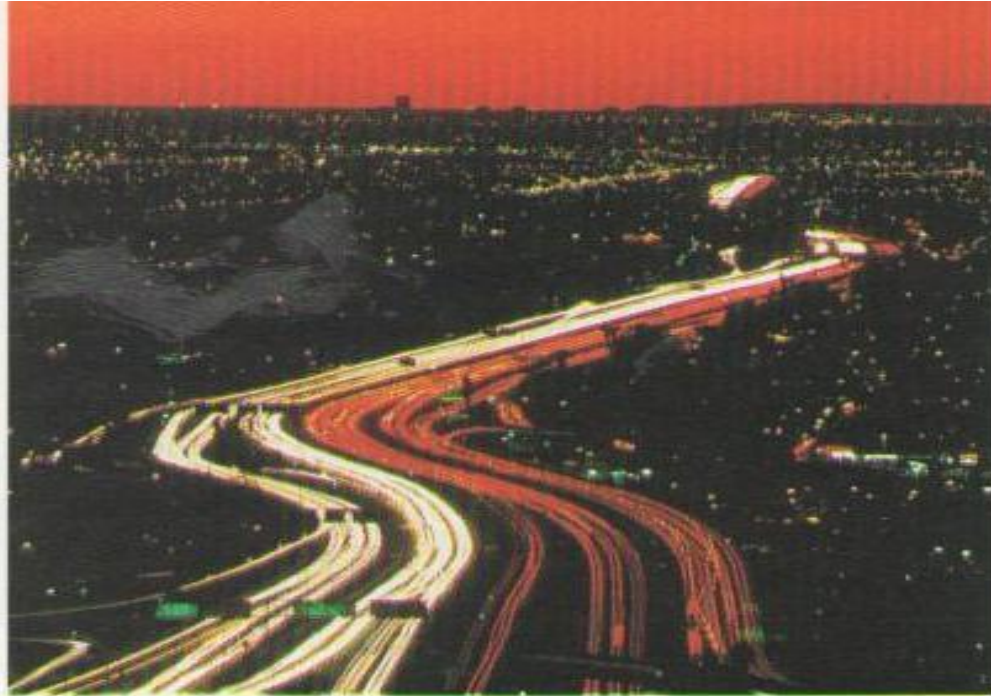


Public, state-supported mass transportation systems-buses, commuter trains, streetcars, subways-are economic and practical for densely settled areas of the U.S. For example, 53 percent of all New Yorkers use the public transportation system. Chicago, Boston, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and San Francisco are cities, where public transportation plays an important role. However, many people still prefer to go by car, even if public transportation were more available and less expensive: cars take you where you want to go and when you want to go there. The most extensive and the least expensive means of transportation in America is the bus. Intercity and suburban bus companies operate between 15,000 cities, towns, and villages. America's intercity buses transport more than 350 million passengers every year.

Although the car culture has always been favored in the U.S., relatively early Americans started to express their concern about problems caused by cars. In the 1950s, some cities began to ban cars from central shopping areas. Malls were built within cities, turning traffic-filled streets to areas for pedestrians, landscaped with grass flowers, and trees. Many universities forbid students to have cars on campus, unless, they are handicapped.

In most U.S. states the national speed limit is about 88 km/h, but outside larger cities-104 km/h is allowed on rural highways. The police strictly enforce speed limits in and outside the cities. Americans are often surprised to hear that they have a reputation of being polite drivers. When considering how many miles Americans drive, the United States has one of the best traffic safety records in the world.

Tough drink-and-driving laws in many states ("if you drink and drive, you go to jail") have decreased traffic deaths in some areas as much as 30 percent in one year. There are harsh laws enforced for protecting school children, who have special crossing areas and school zones in which the maximum speed limit for cars are usually from 8 to 44 km/h. Very often automatic fines go up to \$500 for first-time offenders.



*A night view of Los Angeles, the most famous of the "car-built" cities.*

## AIRPLANES

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a second transportation revolution took place when the airplane became a major means in mass transportation. Particularly during the last thirty years the number of airplanes and passengers has grown enormously. One reason is great distances that have to be covered in order to get from one corner of the country to the other. Another reason is that it is less expensive in America, than anywhere else. Several hundred interstate and international privately owned American airlines compete and as a result ticket prices are much cheaper in the U.S. There are about 3, 300 civilian passenger planes in the United States. Of the total distances flown in the world by civilian aircraft, the United States accounts 46.7 percent and leads with 64.7 percent of the world's passengers. Seven of the busiest airports are in United States. People flying in

the eastern corridor can simply step aboard the planes which leave every hour between Boston, New York, or Washington, without advance reservations, without a ticket. Moreover, most American airlines in an attempt to attract new customers (and not lose old ones) introduced “customer friendly” programs, for “frequent fliers”, allowing free tickets for passengers who fly over many miles a year. There is another good result that should be noted. Government regulations have made airlines more attentive to passengers` needs. For example, airlines are obliged to compensate (by paying for hotel rooms or giving cash or new free tickets) passengers who, through the airline’s fault, have missed flights or been delayed. The 13 largest airlines are also demanded to submit data on their punctuality. These figures are later published in newspapers where they can be checked by travelers.

Great competition has produced four giant U.S. airlines-American, United, Delta, and Northwest. As a result, each is better competing in a worldwide market. Since deregulation the number of fatalities has declined, and the number of flights increased by 25 percent.

Americans still like to drive around the country, but when there is a big distance to cover-most Americans will choose to fly.<sup>1</sup>

## References

1. Aldrich, John. "Before the Convention – Strategies and Choices in Presidential Nomination Campaigns." New Jersey, U.S. 1965
2. Berman, Lerry. Murphy, Bruce. "Approaching Democracy." U.S. 2007.
3. Bromhead, Peter. "Life in Modern America", U.S. 1994.
4. Chipashvili, Malkhaz. "Migration of Georgian Population. Tbilisi, 1999.
5. Christopher, Maura. "Portrait of the U.S.", Department of State, 2001.
6. Cunningham, Noble E. "The Making of the American Party System, 1789-1809". New Jersey, U.S. 1965.
7. Dalton, Russel J. "Citizen Politics." New York, London, 2002.
8. Farrand, Max. "Resolution of Federal Convention (May 30, 1787)," in the Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, vol. 1. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2 913, 30.
9. International Organization of migration. UN Association in Georgia. International Migration Survey, 2002.
10. Kral, Thomas. "Discover America." Washington, D.C. 1996.
11. Luedtke, Luther S. "Making America." Washington, D.C., 1996.
12. Nelson, Michael. "Guide to the Presidency." Washington, D.C., 1989.
13. Rossiter, Clinton. "James Madison," in the Federalist Papers, № 39. New York, 1961.
14. Stevenson, Douglas K. "American Life and Institutions", Washington D.C. 1996.
15. Vetter, Charles T. "Citizen Ambassadors." U.S. 1984.
16. Wayne, Stephen J. "Conflict and Consensus in American Politics". U.S., 2007.
17. Wood, Gordon S. "The Creation of the American Republic". 1776-1787. University of North Carolina Press, 1969.
18. The World Book Encyclopedia, (1995) China. World Book, Inc. VOL. 3.

## Glossary

### American Multicultural Studies I

#### Chapter I

#### In Search of America

1. Hereditary (a) – passing down by inheritance
2. Kinship (n) – family relationship, connection by blood, marriage, or adoption
3. Dialect (n) – regional variety of a language
4. Accomplishment (n) - achievement
5. Squash (n) – various plants related to the pumpkins
6. Utilize (v) – use
7. Clash (n) - conflict
8. Metamorphose (v) – to change
9. Megalopolis (n) – a very large city
10. Inter marriage (n) – marriage between members of different religions, nationalities, races
11. Dissipate (v) – scatter, გაფანტვა
12. Tempting - risky
13. Envisage (v) – განჭკვრეტა წინასწარ, to imagine that smth. will happen in the future
14. Authorize (v) – to give official or legal permission for smth.
15. Revitalize (v) – to put new strength or power into something
16. Bestow (v) [bi'stou] – to give someone smth. of great value or importance
17. Salmon (n) - a large fish with silver skin and pink flash, ორაგული
18. Forestry (n) – the science or skill of looking after large areas of trees, მეტყევეობა
19. Hinder (v) – to make it difficult for someone to do smth.
20. Scarce (n) – not enough, little
21. Tariffs (n) – tax in goods
22. Efficient (a) – effectively done, without wasting time, money, energy
23. Alluring (a) – attractive or desirable
24. Crucial (a) – extremely important
25. Refrain (n) – part of a song that is repeated, especially at the end of each verse
26. Skip (v) – to leave smth. out გამოტოვება
27. Boardroom (n) – a room where the directors of a company have meetings
28. Bumper (n) – a bar fixed on the front and back of a car to protect it if it hits anything
29. Graffiti (n) – rude, humorous, or political writing and pictures on the walls of building
30. Roller-blade (n) – a special boot with a single row of wheels fixed under it
31. Regard (n) – look

## Chapter II

### From California to the New York Island

1. Landscape (n) – an arena of country-side or land
2. Skyline (n) – the shape made by hills or buildings against the sky
3. Bounty (n) – given smth. generously
4. Self-reliance (n) – ability to decide what to do by yourself, without depending on help of others
5. Puppies (n) – fried dough
6. Grits – boiled and ground corn
7. Drawl (n) – to speak with lengthened or drawn out vowels
8. Patois [pɑ'twa:] – regional dialect
9. Schlep (Yiddish) – carry clumsily
10. Nosh (Yiddish) – light meal
11. Nebbish (Yiddish) – a weak-willed, timid person
12. Steeple – a tall tower rising from the roof of a building, such as church (სამრეკლო, შპილი, წვეტი)
13. Dam (n) – a barrier built across a waterway to control the flow of water
14. Gravity (n) – an attraction or tendency towards something
15. Frontier (n) – border
16. Purchase (n) – an act of buying
17. Imprint (n) – mark
18. Rut (v) – to make a narrow cut in the land
19. Trail (n) – a trace or mark left by smth. passed
20. Livestock (n) – farm animals kept for use and profit
21. Houston – port city of Texas
22. Dallas – city of Texas
23. San Diego – city of California
24. Phoenix – Capital of Arizona
25. San Antonio – City of Central Texas
26. Rural (a) – belonging to the country as opposed to the city
27. Urban (a) – relating to a city

## Chapter 3

### Measuring another Distance

1. Trivial (a) – of little significance
2. Induce (v) – to bring about
3. Enterprise (n) – business organization
4. Doctrine (n) – principles for acceptance, or belief
5. Resentment (n) – anger, or bitterness
6. Utilize (v) – use
7. Flexible (a) - მოქნილი
8. Tolerant (a) – respecting the belief or practices of others
9. Genuine (a) – real, that you really feel
10. Controversial (a) – disputable
11. Substantial (a) – solid, strong
12. Intentionally (adv.) – done deliberately
13. Impact (n) – affect, impression
14. Hotly (adv.) – causing sensation
15. Manned (a) – operated
16. Muckraking (n) – the practice of telling or writing unpleasant and perhaps untrue stories about people’s private lives, especially famous people
17. Excavate (v) – dig out
18. Claim (v) – demand as one’s due
19. Missionary (n) – a propagandist for a belief or one who attempts to convert others to a particular doctrine or principles
20. Scattered (a) – distributed loosely, dispersed
21. Huguenot (n) – French Protestant of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> centuries

## Chapter 4

### We the People

1. Recurring (a) – coming repeatedly, უწყვეტ ნაკადად შემოდინება
2. Incorporation – uniting with smth. else
3. Assimilation – become similar
4. Entirely – completely
5. Hostile (a) – characteristic of an enemy
6. Prejudice (n) – irrational judgment or opinion formed in a particular group, race, religion
7. Unreliable – not dependable
8. Affluence (n) – great quantity, abundance, სიუხვე
9. Foster (v) – promote development
10. Outpace (v) – to surpass, გასწრება
11. Preserve (v) – keep
12. Consciousness (n) – a sense of one’s personal or collective identity, ცნობიერება, შეგნება
13. Alien (a) – foreign
14. Persecution (n) – to oppress with ill-treatment because of race, religion, or beliefs
15. Self-reliance (n) – dependence on yourself
16. Obstacle (n) – one that opposes, stands in the way, or holds up progress
17. Naturalize (v) – naturalization (n), give full citizenship
18. Average (a) – usual, ordinary
19. Diversity (n) – difference, variety
20. Heterogeneous (a) – consisting of dissimilar elements; not homogeneous
21. Claim (v) – assert; say to be true
22. Melting pot - დნობადი ქოთანო
23. Stew (n) – stewed meat and vegetables to cook by simmering or boiling slowly
24. Preserve (v) – keep
25. Unique (a) – unparalleled, only one
26. Fertile (a) – rich, productive
27. Soil (n) – 1. Country 2. Top layer of earth, suitable for growth of plants
28. Secular (a) – worldly, rather than spiritual, religious secularization (n) – transfer from ecclesiastical to civil use, make secular
29. Multiple (a) – consisting of more than one element, part
30. Renounce (v) - reject
31. Mainstream (a) – the prevailing current direction of a movement, influence, or activity
32. Strip (v) – deprive
33. Homogeneous (a) – of similar kind
34. Loyalty (n) – faithfulness
35. Decorated (v) – conferred a medal on decoration (n) medal
36. Nativity (n) – circumstances of being born



## Chapter 5

### Changing Patterns of Immigration

1. Statute (n) – a law enacted by a legislature
2. Be confined to smth. – be restricted to smth.
3. Exclude (v) – prevent from entering, exclusion (n)
4. Observe (v) – celebrate (e.g. holidays)
5. Syndicate (n) – an association of people or firms
6. Underground (a) – done in secret, clandestine
7. Transaction (n) – deal, business, გარიგება, საქმის წარმოება
8. Borough [bʌrɒʊ] of New York – one of the five administrative units of New York
9. Flushing (n) – a state of growth, freshness, vigor
10. Lunar (a) (calendar) – measured in reference to the revolution of the moon
11. Mainstream (n) - prevailing current direction of an influence, or activity
12. Gang (n) – a group of criminals or hoodlums
13. Rank (n) – group of ordinary people, not leaders
14. Voluntary (a) – freely chosen
15. Charity (n) – organization or fund for giving help to those in need
16. Commemorate (v) – honor by a ceremony
17. Divisive (a) – showing division
18. Devastating (a) – destroying
19. Charge (n) – accusation, დადანაშაულება
20. Tribute (n) – gratitude
21. Clergy (n) – men appointed for religious service, e.g.: ministers, priests, etc. collectively
22. Subversive (a) – overthrowing, undermining, ძირისგამომთხრელი

## Chapter 6

### Religion in American Life

1. Efficiency (n) – high ratio of output, ნაყოფიერება
2. Polygamy (n) – practice of having more than one spouse at one time
3. Congregation (n) – The members of a specific religious group who regularly worship, მრევლი
4. Parochial (school) [pə'ro:kiəl] – religious (school)
5. Prophet (n) – a person who speaks as if by divine inspiration, წინასწარმეტყველი
6. Fetus (n) [f'i:tʊs] – the unborn young from the end of the eight week after conception to birth, as distinguished from the earlier embryo, ნაყოფი
7. Allegiance (n) – loyalty to a nation, sovereign, or cause
8. Secular (a) – less religious, საერო
9. Eternal (a) [it'ɜ:nl] – continuing for ever (e.g. eternal life)
10. Ammunition (n) – explosives or destructive materials used in war, საბრძოლო მასალა, ჭურვი, ყუმბარა, ვაზნა
11. Counseling (n) - consulting, advice, guidance
12. Observance (n) – 1. Complying with law, custom; 2. Celebrating a religious tradition, holiday or other ritual occasion
13. Hallmark (n) – a mark indicating quality or excellence
14. Venerate (v) – regard with great respect
15. Advent (n) – The period of preparation for Christmas, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas
16. Unitarian – a member of a Christian denomination that rejects the doctrine of Trinity and emphasized tolerance in religious belief
  - Trinity – in Christian ideology, the union of 3 diverse persons in one God
17. Scripture (n) – Bible, sacred book, ბიბლია
18. Custodian (a) – caretaker, მზრუნველი, მფარველი
19. Wholesomely (adv.) – healthily
20. Rabbi (n) - rabbis – a person ordained for leadership of a Jewish congregation
21. Subtle (a) – not obvious
22. Conformity (n) – behavior agreeing to current customs
23. Sacrifice (v) – offering of smth. to God
24. Ban (v) – prohibit
25. Clause (n) – provision in a document (პუნქტი დოკუმენტში)
26. Ensured (a) – guaranteed
27. Cohesion (n) – the process of holding together
28. Adhere (v) – to follow
29. Congregation (n) – members of a specific religious group, მრევლი
30. Convention (n) – meeting, assembly
31. Orthodox (a) – very conservative, having strict rules
32. Abjure (v) – renounce, repudiate, დაგმობა
33. Proclaim (v) – announce
34. Menorah (n) ['mɒnɒrə] – (Judaism) A nine-branched candelabrum used in celebration of Hanukkah
35. Hanukkah (n) – (Judaism) an eight day festival commemorating the victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus Epiphanies
36. Sustain (v) – maintain, შენარჩუნება
37. Denomination (n) – an organized group of religious congregation, სარწმუნოება, რჯული

## Chapter 7

### Crime

1. Convict (v) – to find or prove to be guilty, მისჯა
2. Infringe (v) – violate
3. Trial (n) – formal examination of a criminal case
4. Recall (n) – procedure by which official can be removed by people’s petition, გაწვევა
5. Assail (n) – attack
6. To release a prisoner - პატიმრის ციხიდან გამოშვება
7. To sentence guilty – დამნაშავედ სცნო
8. Probation (n) – suspending of a convicted offender’s sentence during good behavior under supervision of an officer, თავდებით გამოშვება
9. Impose (v) – establish
10. Assault (n) – violent physical or verbal attack
11. Offense (n) – violation of a moral or social code
12. Statute (n) – law enacted by a legislature
13. Infamy (n) – negative reputation
14. Prohibition – the act of prohibiting by law (alcohol)
15. Blackmail (v) – get smth. forcedly by threatening, დაშანტაჟება
16. Gang (n) – a group of criminals or hoodlums
17. Rival (n) – competitor
18. Illicit (a) – unlawful
19. Armament (n) – weapons and supplies of a military unit
20. Evasion (n) – to escape or avoid smth. especially paying taxes by cleverness or deceit
21. Tenfold (adv) – ten times as much or as many of smth.
22. Acquittal (n) – an official statement in court that someone is not guilty
23. Amendment (n) – written change or improvement to a law or document
24. Statute - საერთო კანონი, კანონმდებლობა, law enacted by a legislature
25. Gaol [dzeil] – jail (British variant of jail)
26. Death penalty (n) – death punishment
27. Execution (n) – capital punishment, სიკვდილით დასჯა
28. Interminable (a) – tiresomely long
29. Conclusive (a) – putting end to doubt
30. Mercifulness (n) – kindness, to be inclined to forgive
31. Physical interchange (n) – physical violence
32. Capture attention – attract attention
33. Vendetta (n) – a bitter feud, esp. between two families
34. Revenge (n) – punishment in return for injury or assault
35. Aggravate (v) – to make worse or more troublesome, გამწვავება
36. Law enforcement agencies - სამართალდამცავი ორგანოები
37. Detention (n) – keep in custody (under supervision) or confinement, დაკავება
38. Strain (n) – tension, დაძაბულობა
39. Frustration (n) – disappointment
40. Take precautions – be careful
41. Concealed (a) – hidden
42. Bear arms – carry gun, revolver, იარაღის ტარება
43. Infringe (v) – violate

## Chapter 8

### American Government

1. Forge (v) – to give form or shape; devise, e.g. forge a treaty
2. Overlook(b) – examine
3. Convene (v) – to meet, assemble formally
4. Proclaim (v) – announce officially
5. Draft (v) – to draw up a preliminary version
6. Abuse (n) – hurt, maltreatment
7. Usurpation (n) – seizing and holding by force and without legal authority
8. Take precaution – to protect against possible danger or failure
9. Compel (v) – to force
10. Compliance (n) – tendency to agree, submit
11. Implement (v) – carry out, realize
12. Framer (n) – constructor
13. Ratify (v) – approve
14. Secede (v) – withdraw formally from membership in an association, alliance or organization
15. Bill (n) – the law enacted from a draft of law presented for approval to a legislative body
16. Consensus (n) – agreement
17. Revise (v) – to reconsider, modify and prepare a new edition; revision (n)
18. Seizure (n) – confiscation of property
19. Jury (n) – a body of persons summoned by law and sworn to hear and hand down a verdict upon a case presented in court
20. Unalienable (a) – impossible to be taken away
21. Federalism (n) – relationship between the centralized national government and the individual state governments

## **Chapter 9**

### **Congress**

1. Bicameral (a) – composed of two legislative branches, ორპალატიანი
2. Even (year) – exactly divisible by 2
3. Blue-collar (a) worker – relating to wage earners whose jobs involve skilled or semiskilled manual labor
4. Obtain (v) – get
5. Implementation (n) – put into effect
6. Bargain (v) – negotiate the terms of agreement
7. Puzzlement (n) – confusement
8. Incumbent (a) – holding the office at some particular time
9. Contender (n) – oppositioner
10. To be prone – be inclined
11. Resounding (a) – sounding loudly
12. Consensus (n) – mutual consent

## **Chapter 10**

### **Icelander Ethnic Group**

### **Georgian Immigration in the US**

### **Causes of Labor Migration**

1. Reciprocate (v) – to make some sort of return for smth. done, given
2. Conscious (a) – be able to feel, aware
3. Subsequent (a) – succeeding, გამომდინარე
4. Collapse (n) – dissolution (n)
5. Deterioration (n) - disintegrating, weakening, diminish in quality
6. Vulnerable (a) - easily affected or hurt, as by criticism
7. Remittances (n) – money sent from abroad
8. Strife (n) – conflict
9. Evade (v) – to escape or avoid (sometimes by cleverness or deceit)
10. IOM – International Organization of Migration
11. Enhance (v) – increase

12. Subsistence (n) – maintaining existence, საარსებო წყარო, (e.g. subsistence minimum)
13. Overwhelming (a) – prevailing
14. Impediment (n) – obstruction, hindrance, ხელის შეშლა
15. Huddled (a) – densely packed, crowded
16. Wretched (a) -miserable
17. Refuse (n) [refju:s] – trash, not needed any more
18. Teeming (a) – full, abundant
19. Toss (v) – to throw to and fro
20. Roll (v) – move
21. At random (adv) – having no specific purpose
22. Expenditure (n) – money spent

## **Chapter 11.**

### **Political Parties**

#### **A Brief History of the American Party System**

1. Promotion (n) – raising in position
2. Subvert (v) – ruin
3. Welfare (n) – well-being, the state of doing well
4. Governance (n) – control, guide
5. Divisive (a) – creating disunity, lacking unity
6. Federal government – a form of government in which power is distributed between a central authority and constituent territorial units
7. Conversely (adv.) – oppositely
8. Vision (n) – mental image
9. Extreme (n) – radicalism
10. Attorney (n) - a legal agent to defend in legal proceedings
11. Bid (n) – invitation
12. Vigilance (n) – watchfulness
13. Quench (v) – put out the fire
14. Vie (v) – strive, devote serious effort or energy
15. Broad-based (a) – fundamental
16. Faction (n) – troublesome minority within a larger group
17. Flip-flopping – changing attitude
18. Commitment (n) – duty

19. Devastating (a) – ruining
20. Backlash (n) – hostile reaction
21. Self-sufficient (a) – able to provide for oneself without help
22. Reversely (adv.) – on the contrary
23. Faction (n) – minority within a larger group, ფრაქცია
24. Denounce (v) – to condemn openly, დაგმობა
25. Solemn (a) – deeply earnest
26. Vital (a) – necessary to the continuation
27. Recruitment (n) – seeking out for engaging in work or military service
28. Flip-flop (v) – reversing in stand or position, მერყეობა
29. Backlash (n) – hostile reaction
30. Fervent (a) – ardent; glowing, მგზნებარე

## **Chapter 12 Elections, Federalism**

1. Drive (n) – syn. Campaign
2. County (n) – an administrative subdivision of a state or territory
3. Fervent (a) – greatly emotional, ardent
4. Eligible (a) – qualified to be chosen in office
5. Nominal (a) – existing in name only
6. Loose (a) – not tight
7. Constituency (n) – the voters represented by an elected legislator
8. Grant (v) – transfer, give
9. Retain (v) – keep, maintain
10. Delegate (v) – to entrust to another, გადაბარება
11. Decentralize (v) – to distribute the functions of a central authority among local authorities
12. Heterogeneity (n) – difference
13. Reserve (v) – set aside for a particular person or use
14. Concurrent (a) – happening at the same time
15. Enforce (v) – force

16. Preempt (v) – to take before someone else can
17. Accountability (n) – responsibility
18. Grass roots – society at the local level, especially in rural areas as distinguished from the centers of political leadership
19. Foe (n) – enemy
20. Snow-mobile (n) – any of various automotive vehicles for travel on snow

### **Chapter 13 Vacationing in the U.S.**

1. Vacation (n) – a period of time devoted to rest, as from work or study
2. Lifetime (n) – a period of time during which a person is alive
3. Destination (n) - a place to which one is going
4. Show off (v) – to boast
5. Assort (v) – classify
6. Highlight (v) – to emphasize
7. Endanger (v) – to risk
8. Marine (a) – of a relating to the sea
9. Harbor (n) – protected part of deep water to anchor ships
10. Waterfront (n) – land bordering water
11. Borough [b^rou] – 1. A self-governing town in some U.S. States; 2. Administrative unit of New Your City
12. Buff (n) – (informal) an enthusiast
13. Geyser (n) – natural hot spring
14. Cable car (n) – a vehicle that moves along cable
15. Sequoia – red wood tree



## Chapter 14 Welfare

### Transportation (Roads, Waterways, railroads, car culture, airplanes)

1. Comprehensive (a) – including much, სრულყოფილი
2. Provision (n) – providing, supplying of something
3. Median (a) – middle; საშუალო
4. Handicapped (a) – physically restricted
5. Insurance – contract to pay money in the case of loss of life, property, health
6. Contribution (n) – money, aid
7. Payroll (n) - სახელფასო უწყისი, a list of employees to be paid with
8. Amendment (n) – improvement
9. Toll (n) – fixed payment for the passage of persons over roads
10. Freight (n) – transporting goods by land or sea
11. Clipper (n) - a ship built for great speed
12. “gold rush” - ოქროს ციებ-ცხელება
13. Lumber (n) – timber; ხის მასალა
14. Bulk (a) – mass;
15. Cargo (n) - ტვირთი, goods conveyed in a ship or other vessel
16. Ban (v) – prohibition
17. Fine (n) – punishment sum paid for an offense
18. Fatality (n) – accident resulting in death