

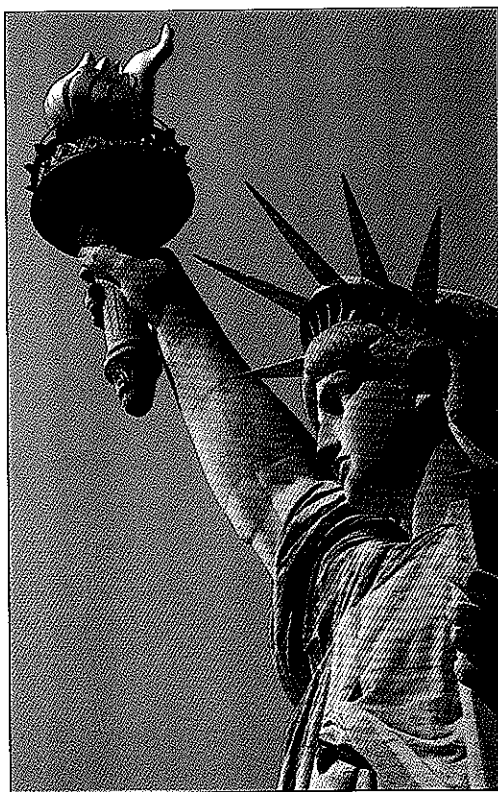
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THE UNITED STATES

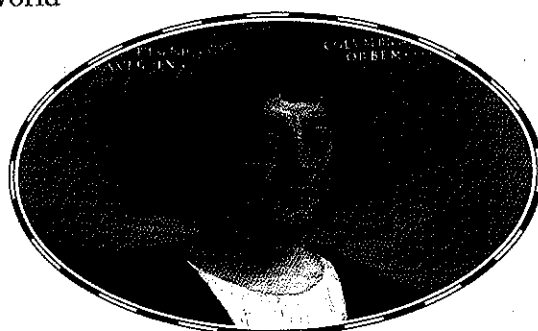


35 THE UNITED STATES AND ITS BEGINNINGS

The name first appears in the Declaration of Independence of 1776, in which 13 states united to form a republic. The United States of America in 2003 had a population of 280 million in 50 states and the District of Columbia. The last two states to join the Union were Alaska and Hawaii. The topography of the U.S.A. can be summed up as a vast central plain with mountains in the west, deserts in the southwest, and hills and low mountains in the east. The continent stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, over six time zones. When it is 11 pm. in Prague, it is 5 pm. in Washington D.C. and 2 pm. in California.

The **discoverer** of America, Christopher Columbus, never stepped on the soil of the New World

(the name used before "America"). On 14 October, 1492, he landed on an island in the Caribbean Sea and during his life he only explored that area, all the time believing he was in Asia. The Vikings had perhaps landed on the northeast coast (in Newfoundland in Canada) around 1000, but the historians cannot agree about it because of the lack of material evidence.



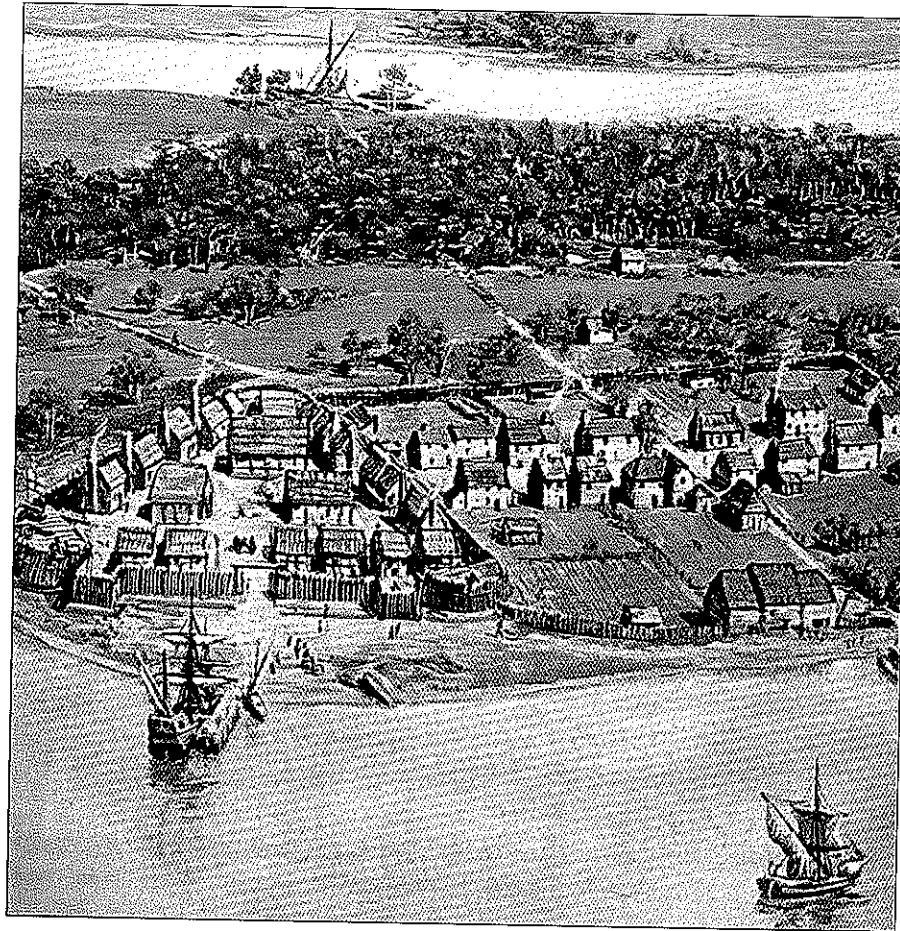
1492 • THE • 1992 COLUMBUS QUINCENTENARY

35a The Columbus Quincentenary
1492-1992

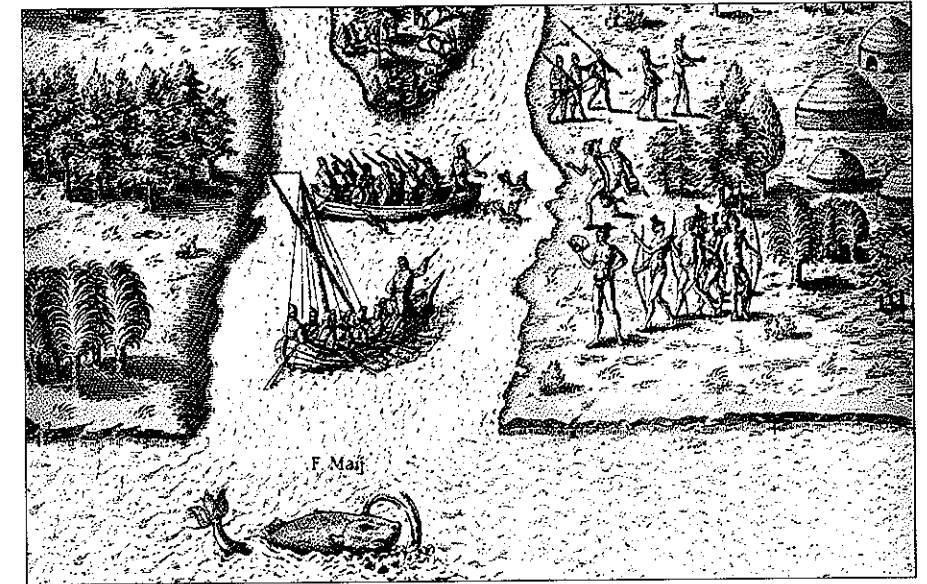
The earliest **exploration** of the continent (named by a German cartographer after an Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci) started between 1497 and 1524, with the expeditions of John Cabot (northeast coast), Juan Ponce de Leon (Florida), and Giovanni da Verrazano

(New York Bay). In 1579 Francis Drake, on his voyage round the globe, entered San Francisco Bay. In 1609 Henry Hudson discovered the Hudson River, which flows to New York City.

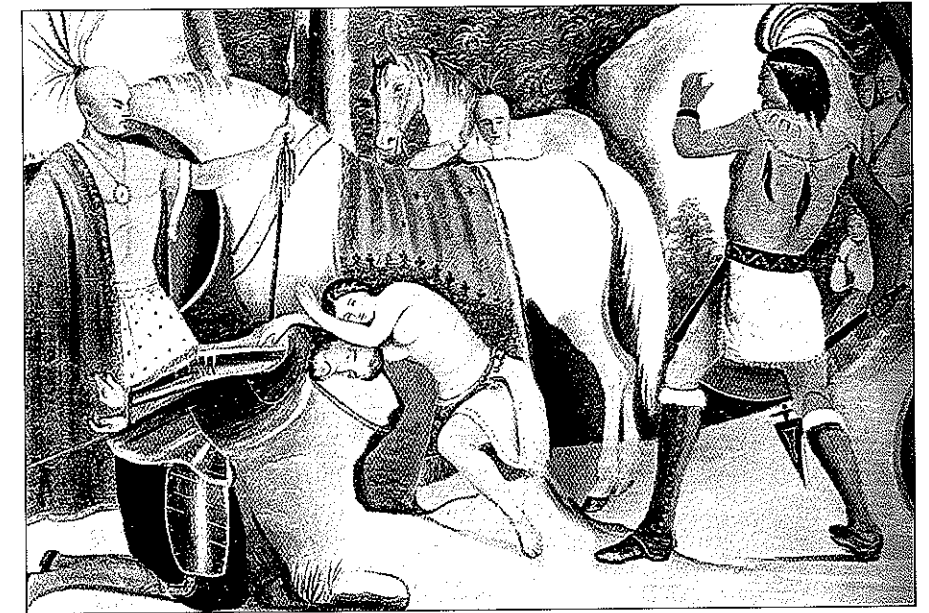
The **settlement** of America started, after one unsuccessful attempt by the English in North Carolina (the so-called Lost Colony, 1587), in 1607, when 105 men in 3 ships landed at Jamestown in Virginia. Their leader, Captain Smith, became later known for his association with the Indian Princess (actually young daughter of Chief Powhatan) Pocahontas. The next important settlement was made at Plymouth, when 103 passengers, Puritan separatists known as Pilgrim Fathers,



35b Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement, founded in 1607



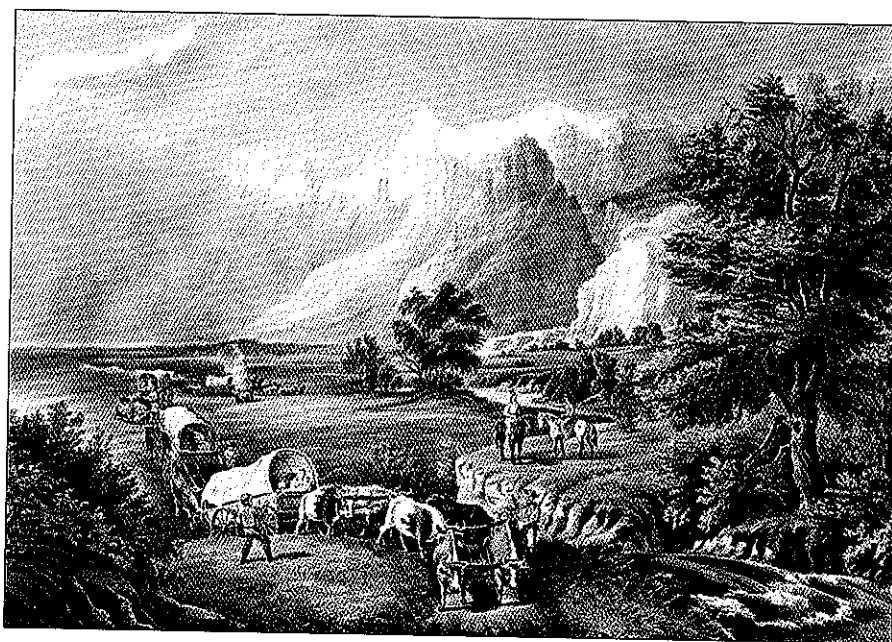
35c White settlers (from the Lost Colony) in an American Indian village in North Carolina



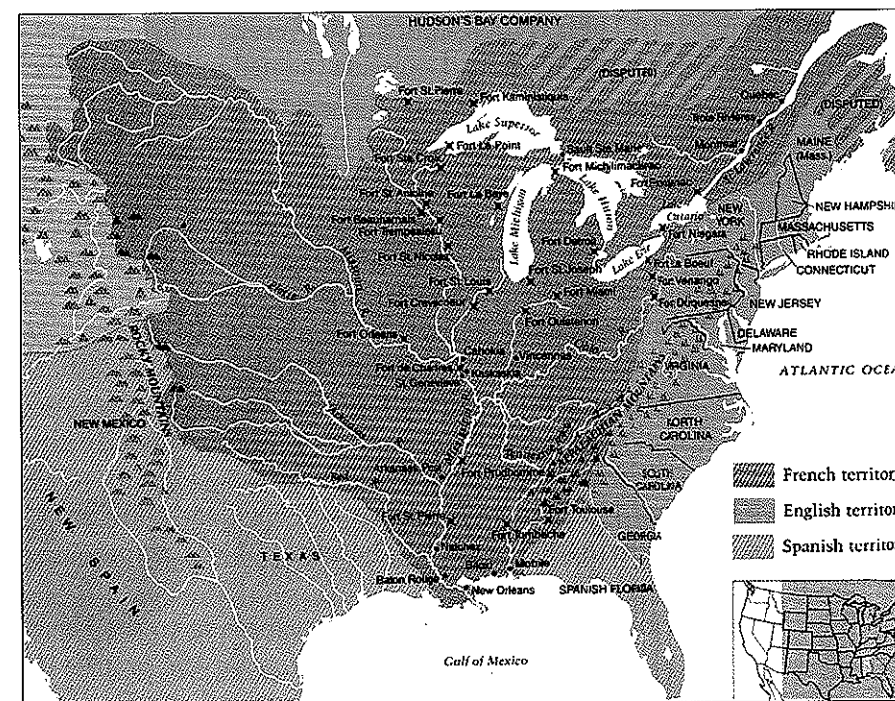
35d Captain Smith, condemned to execution, is saved by Pocahontas (by an unknown American artist)



35e Pilgrims from the Plymouth Colony (Mass.) on their way to church

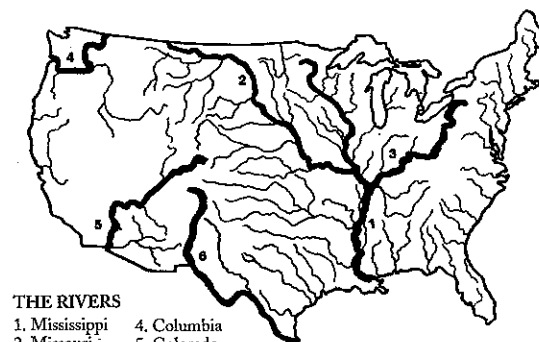


35f Wagons with pioneer settlers in California



35g A map of 17th-century America, with the boundaries of English, French and Spanish territories

arrived on a ship named the Mayflower (it had sailed from Plymouth in England). These beginnings were harsh, e. g. half of the Plymouth colony died during the first winter. The Dutch founded a colony in the New York area in 1624. The New Netherlands, with its capital New Amsterdam (on Manhattan Island) survived only forty years, then British troops seized it and renamed the capital New York. French explorers reached the Mississippi and travelled down the river in 1673



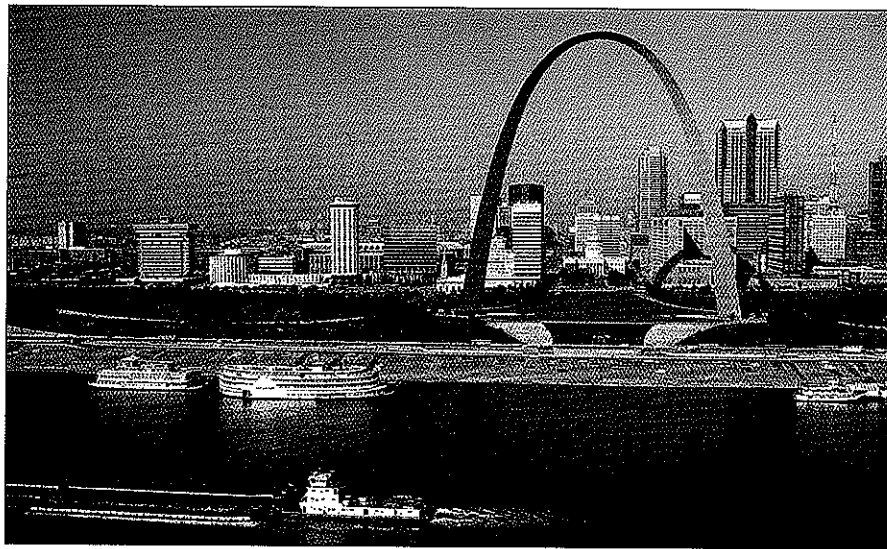
THE RIVERS
 1. Mississippi 4. Columbia
 2. Missouri 5. Colorado
 3. Ohio 6. Rio Grande

35h The six main American rivers

and some twenty years later, French settlements were established there. The French possessed a vast territory, Louisiana (named in honour of the King of France), reaching from the border of Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, but in 1803 Napoleon sold it to the U.S.A. since he needed money for his war in Europe. The Spanish (and later the Mexicans) owned a large territory in the southwest. This was seized by the Americans in 1846; one U.S. state still has the name New Mexico and most of the place names in California, Arizona and Colorado are Spanish.

The term "frontier" does not mean a state border (with Canada or Mexico) but the unknown wilderness on the edge of civilization. Adventurous frontiersmen (Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone, Kit Carson) moved west first and were later followed by pioneer settlers. In the 18th century they helped to increase the size of the U.S.A. and in modern days are regarded as models of independence and toughness. The frontier practically ended with the building of the transcontinental railroads.

The largest memorial to the pioneer settlers moving to the West is in St Louis (Missouri), from where many started for the prairie, in their covered wagons. The Gate to the West Memorial, a steel arch, nearly 200 m high, was designed by a leading American architect.



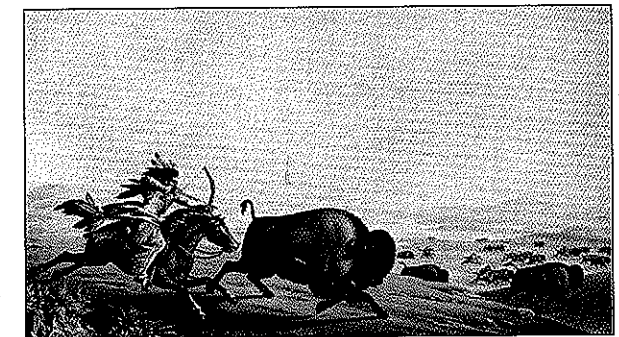
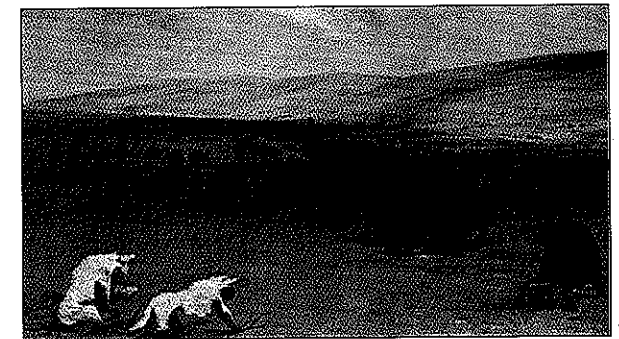
35i The Gate to the West Memorial in St Louis (Missouri)

36 NATIVE AMERICANS

This name is now preferred to the earlier name, American Indians or Red Indians. Their original number is estimated to have been between 1 and 3 million. Native Americans came to the American continent from Siberia, across the Bering Strait, about 15,000 years ago. Before the white man arrived, several North American civilizations disappeared, mainly in the Ohio and Mississippi regions; only their strange burial mounds (often in the shape of birds or animals) have survived.

Their way of life (culture) differed: in the East the Wood Indians lived in huts in villages like farmers, in the Mid-West they were nomads, who lived in tents and hunted the buffalo, in the southwest they built houses of dried clay (the community is called a pueblo) and grew maize and raised cattle, and in the northwest they lived in long wooden houses for several families and their main occupation was fishing. The Inuits (or Eskimos) lived in igloos made of ice blocks in winter.

The relations between the white and the red man were at first friendly (see William Penn), but with the arrival of more and more settlers and with their need for land, conflicts and later wars arose. The Indians often took part in the white man's wars, supporting e. g. the French against the British, and the British against the Americans, and they usually chose the losing side (e. g. the



36a Indian buffalo hunters

chief Red Cloud). At one time it looked as if the Mississippi might become a permanent border between white and Indian civilizations, but hunger for land and precious metals led to the breaking of the treaties (which were to be valid "as long as the grass grows and water



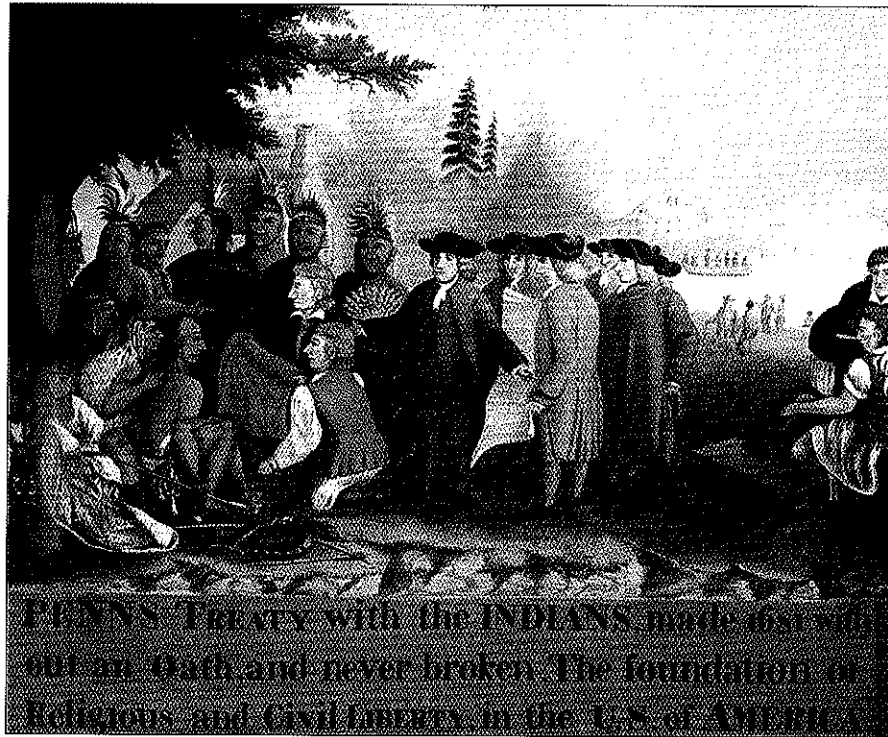
Indians



council with Indians



36d Warrior in the costume of the Dog dance



36b William Penn's treaty with the Indians



36c The Lewis and Clark expedition (1804-06) holds council with Indians

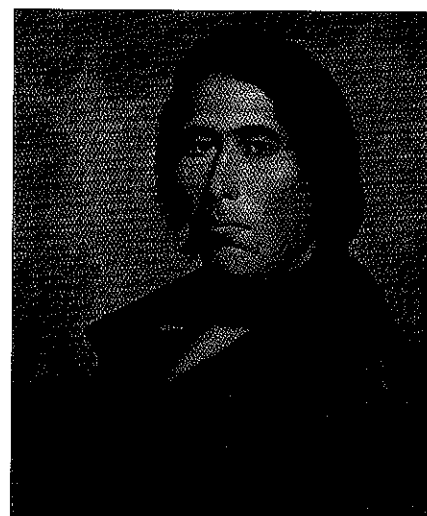
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36d Warrior in the costume of the Dog dance



36e Sequoyah (c. 1770–1843), Indian leader, creator of the Cherokee script

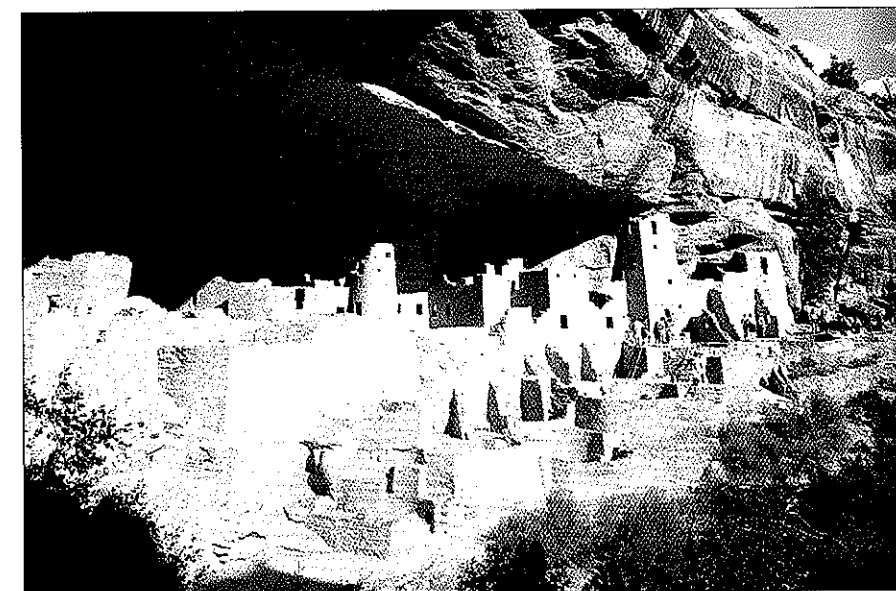


36f Tecumseh (c. 1768–1813), chief of the Shawnee Indians

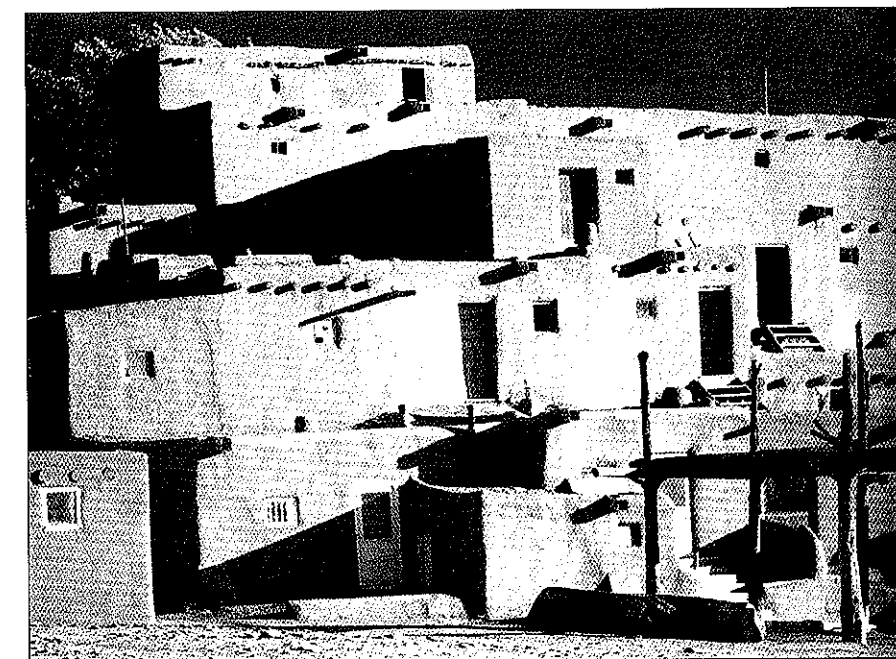
flows”) and finally to the transfer of whole tribes to reservations. The largest Indian victory was the complete annihilation of a cavalry unit (more than 200 men) under General Custer in Montana near the Little Big Horn river in 1876. The 2,500 victorious Sioux Indians were led by chiefs Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. One of the last leaders to give up was the Apache Geronimo, defeated by the U.S. Cavalry in 1886, after ten years of fighting. The last Indian uprising took place in 1890; the confrontation between American cavalry and the Indians at Wounded Knee in North Dakota ended with the loss of over 300 Indian lives.

Now only 1 million out of the 4 million Native Americans live on reservations. They are mostly jobless and so get social support (the welfare check). Alcoholism is widespread among them. The largest tribe are the Navahos – among them many can make jewellery and rugs with traditional patterns. The contemporary Native Americans take much interest in the history of their tribe and the great Indian leaders (Tecumseh, Sequoia, etc.). They even have their own writers.

Native Americans speak scores of languages and dialects, some more different from each other than Slavic and Germanic languages. The languages of small tribes are now becoming extinct.



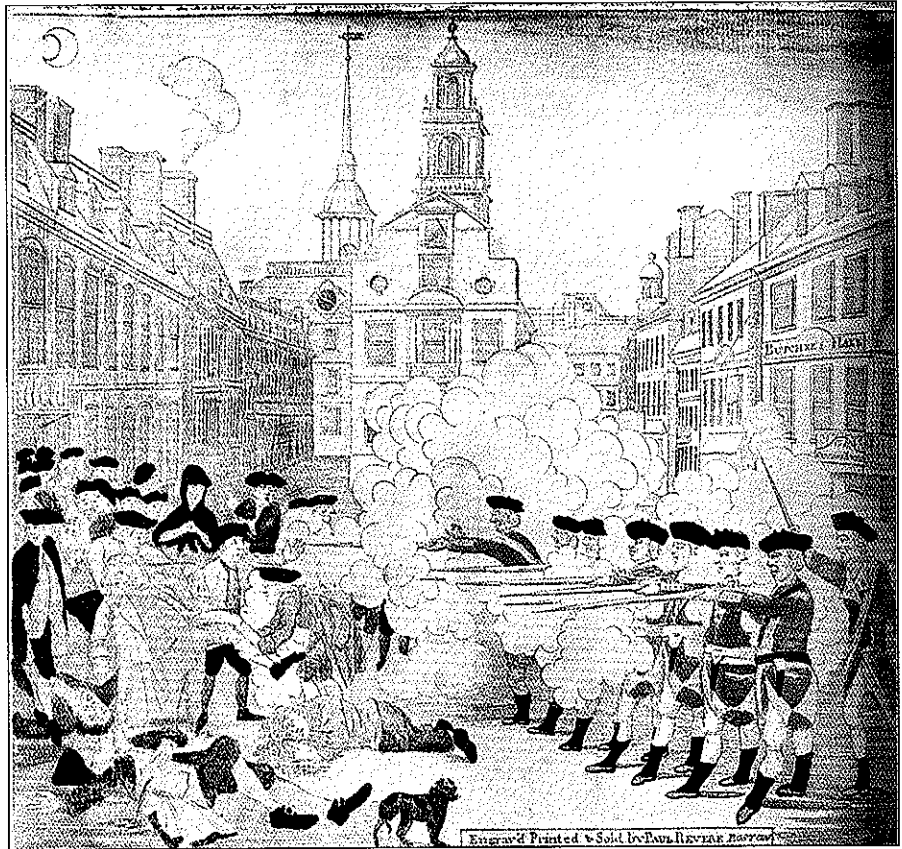
36g Prehistoric American Indian pueblo in Arizona



36h American Indian pueblo now

37 THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

It is also called the War of Independence. It was waged between Britain, the mother country, and its American colonies as a result of disagreements about paying taxes and political control. The **Thirteen Colonies** each had an elected assembly, which wanted to decide about the taxes. Some more radical patriots wanted even full independence – their slogan was “no taxation without representation” (i. e. representation in the London Parliament). The patriots in Boston called themselves the Sons of Liberty. In 1770 in a riot in Boston, British soldiers killed five Americans and this incident became known as the Boston Massacre. Another incident, in December 1773, became



37a The Boston Massacre, a pre-Revolutionary incident (1770)

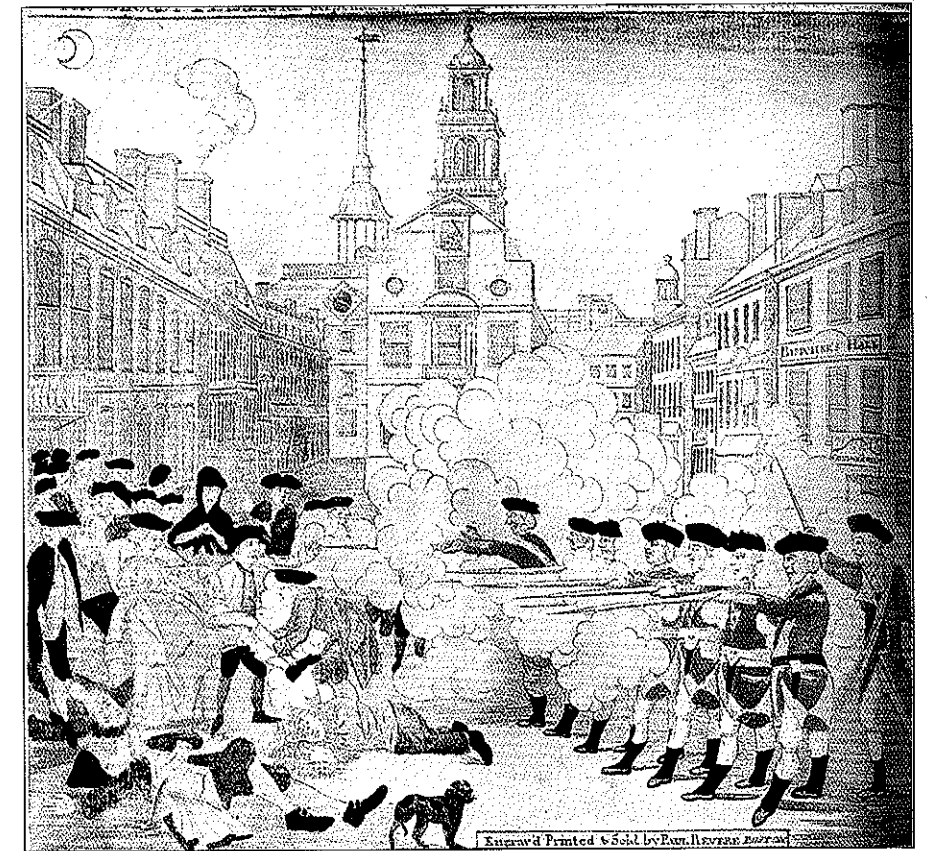
Young Czech readers' interest in American Indians was more due to the Winnetou novels by the German Karl May from the early 20th century than to the 19th-century novels of the American writer James Fenimore Cooper (1789–1851), whose best-known book is *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826).

→ 36i General George A. Custer (1839–76), killed by the Sioux at the battle of the Little Big Horn (Montana)



37 THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

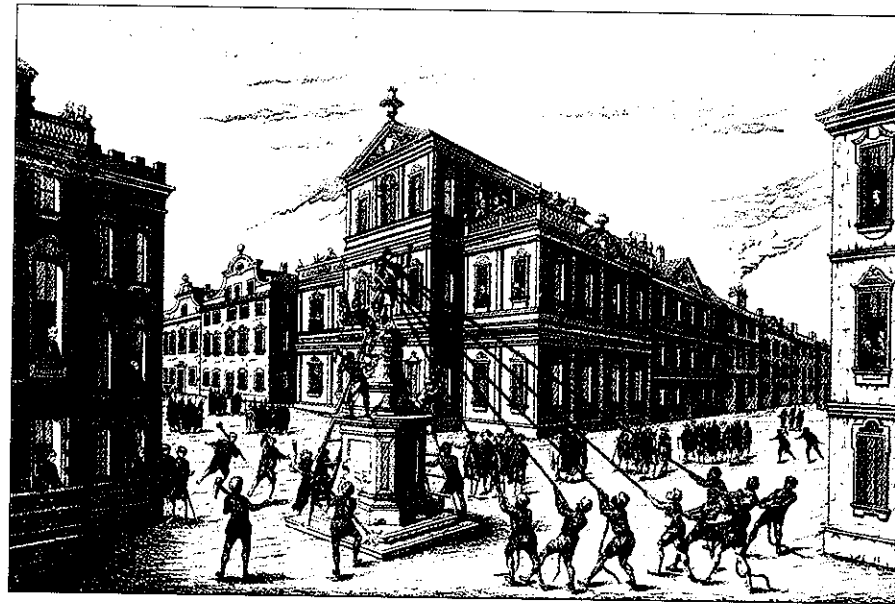
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37a The Boston Massacre, a pre-Revolutionary incident (1770)

known as the Boston Tea Party, when a group of Bostonians threw boxes of imported tea from the ship into the harbor (one box lid was found in the bottom mud in 2003) because cheaper, smuggled tea was available. In 1774, when most Americans began to support the revolution, representatives of all the colonies met at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and agreed to train a militia. Next year, the British soldiers started searches for the hidden weapons and two months later the first battle was fought. When Britain refused to give in, the Congress on 4 July 1776 signed the Declaration of Independence and appointed George Washington as the commander-in-chief.

George Washington's grandfather came from the north of England – his house there is now a museum. George Washington was born in 1732 and grew up on his father's farm in Virginia. Father died when the boy was eleven. He studied mathematics and surveying and at sixteen surveyed the lands of a wealthy American. At the age of 20, he inherited the property of his half-brother and gradually became a rich man – when he died he owned 44,000 hectares of land. When



37b In celebration of independence, patriots in New York City pull down the statue of King George III

21, he began his military service and was sent on missions to Ohio during the British war against the French. At the age of 27, he married Martha Custis, a widow, and managed his family estate at Mount Vernon. When the War of Independence

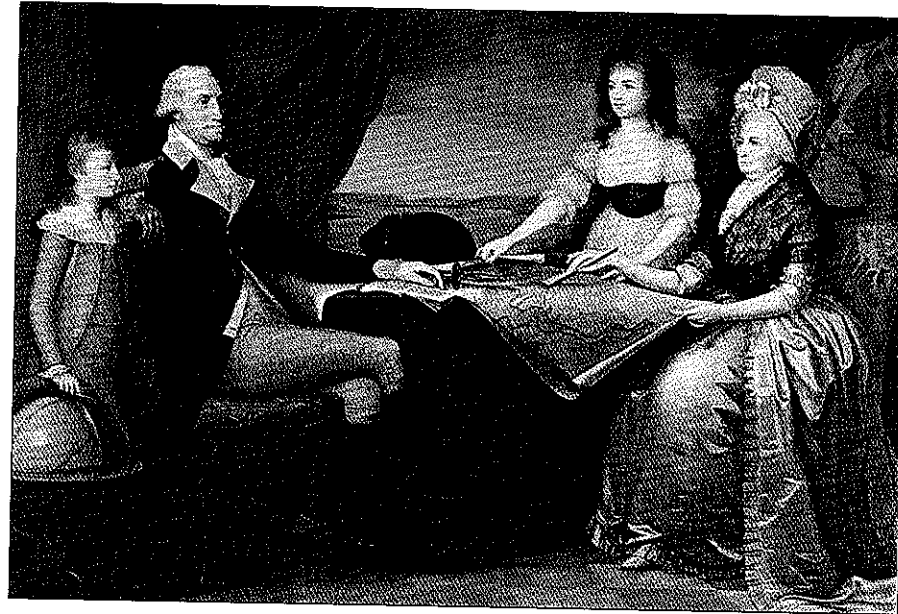


37c Mount Vernon, home of George Washington from 1747 to his death, now a national shrine

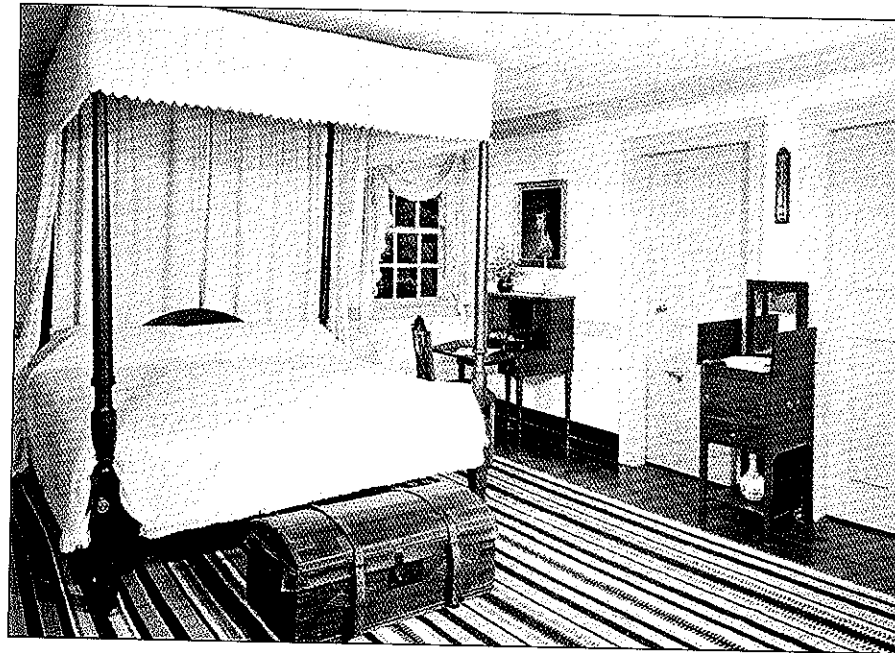
broke out he led the Virginia troops before he was made the commander of the Continental Army.

France and Spain supported the American Revolution because it made Britain weaker in North America. After a series of battles which the Americans won, the British general Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in 1781. Two years later, after a period of talks, Britain recognized the United States of America (in those days called by Czechs *Spojené obce severoamerické* or *Soustání americké*).

The American victory was due largely to Washington's leadership. In 1789 he was unanimously elected president and re-elected four years later. Though a Federalist, and thus closer to Hamilton than to Jefferson, as a president he avoided party politics. He decided that a new capital should be built on the Potomac River. At first



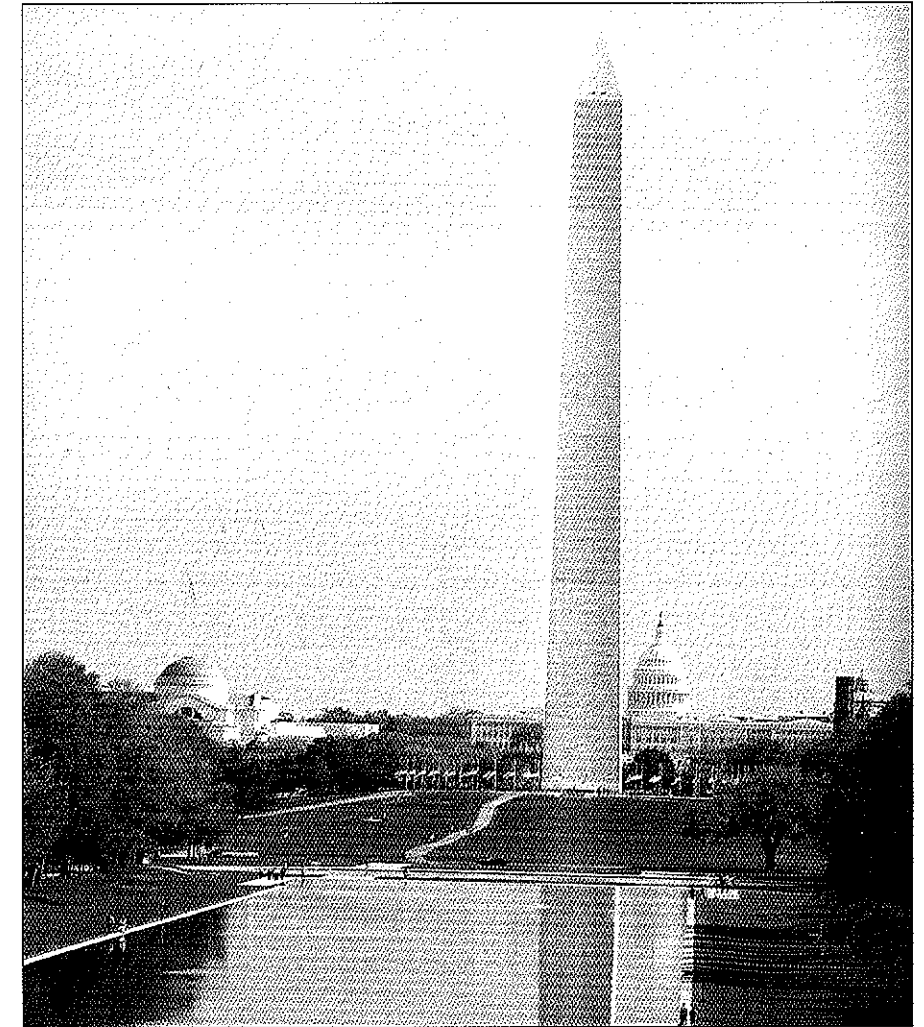
37d George Washington's family



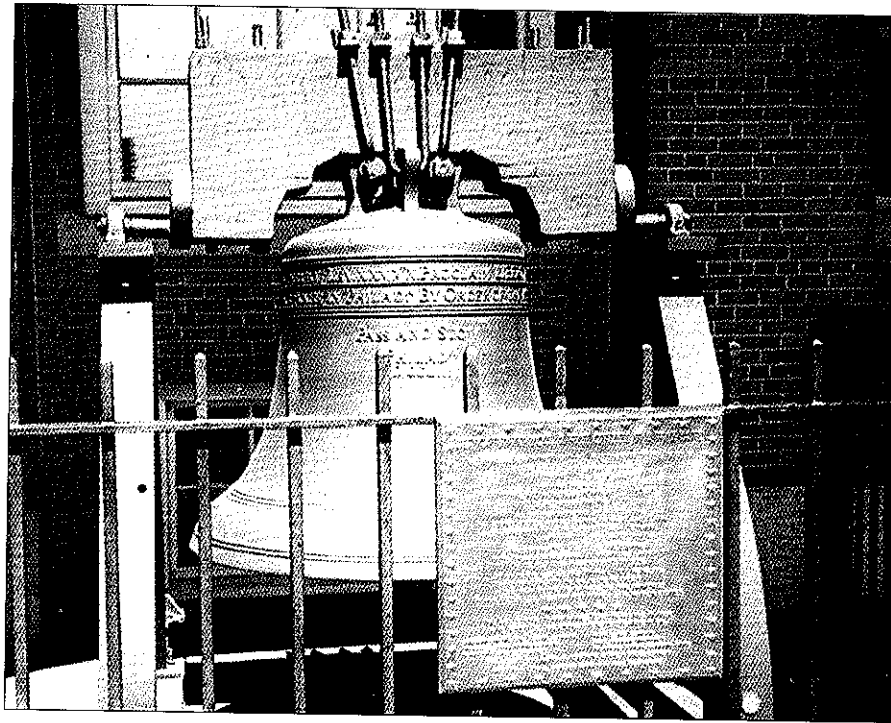
37e George Washington's bedroom in Mount Vernon

called Federal City (with the President's House), it was later renamed Washington, D.C. (with the White House). In 1797, at the age of 65, he retired but ten months later died and was buried in the garden of Mount Vernon.

The second great man of the American Revolution, **Thomas Jefferson** (1743–1826), had a better education than Washington. At the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg he studied the Greek



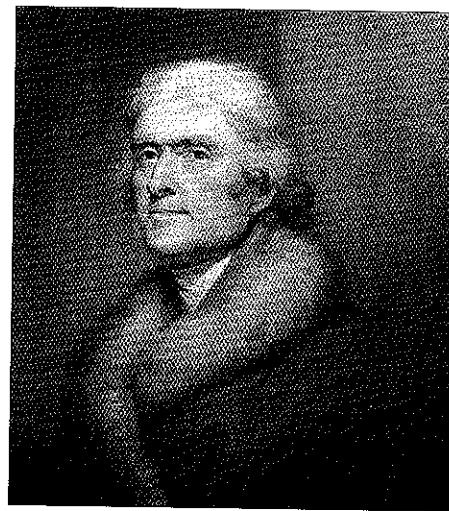
Pict. 37f The Washington Monument in the capital



37g The Liberty Bell (in Philadelphia)

and Latin classics. When 26, he was elected to the Virginia Congress, and soon began to build his home, Monticello. When 29, he married a wealthy widow (she died young, at the age of 34).

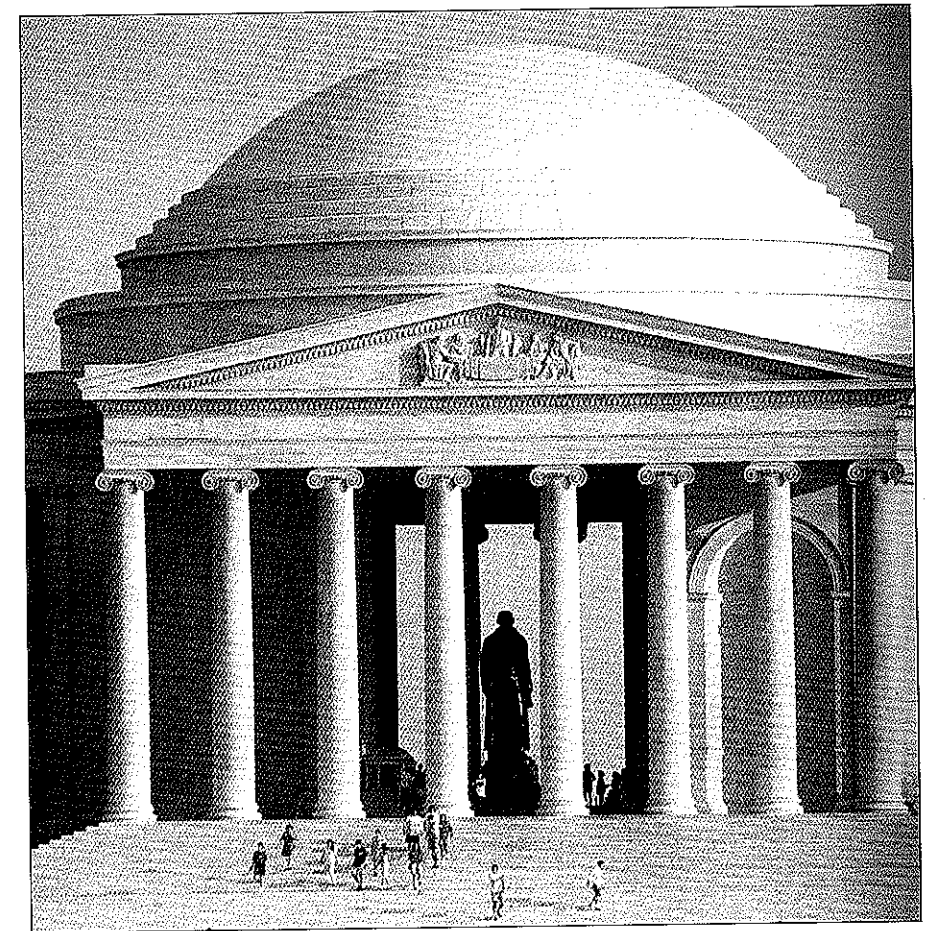
At the beginning of the American Revolution Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. In 1779 he was elected governor of Virginia. After a four-year period in Paris, as minister to France, Washington appointed him secretary of state. In politics, Jefferson favoured a less strong federal government. He served



37h Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), 3rd President (1801–09)

as vice-president to the 2nd U.S. president, John Adams, and then became president himself. He established the University of Virginia and supported westward expansion. The Louisiana Purchase (1803) from Napoleon and the subsequent three-year-long Lewis and Clark Expedition of exploration of the American West were due to him. He died on July 4, 1826, on the same day as John Adams – the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. A strange coincidence, indeed!

After an analysis of DNA taken from descendants of Jefferson and of Sally Hemings, a slave who took care of him when he was ill, it has been admitted that he fathered at least one of her six known children.



37i The Jefferson Memorial in Washington D. C.

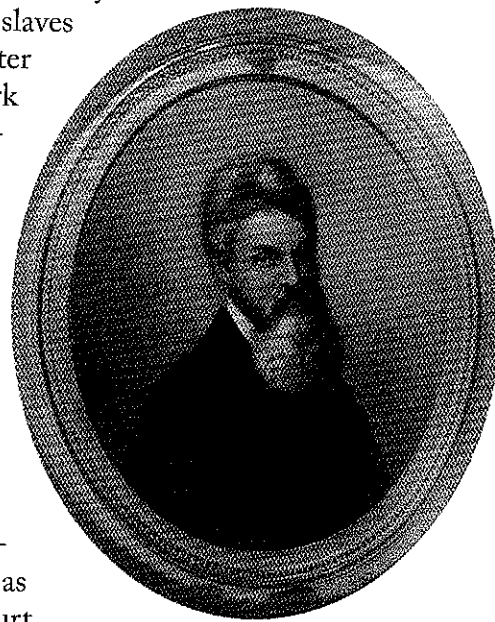
38 THE MULTICULTURAL U.S.A.

AFRICAN AMERICANS

African-Americans (also called *Blacks*, while the word *negro* is regarded as offensive, and *nigger* extremely offensive) were brought forcibly to the New World in thousands when cotton and tobacco plantations in the South needed cheap labour (Native Americans were too weak to do hard work). The earliest slaves were transferred from the West Indies; later they were brought in slave ships from Africa. The slave trade was more in the hands of the Spanish, Portuguese and Arabs than the British – who banned it in 1807 (though the English Quaker William Wilberforce had requested it in Parliament as early as in 1788). Many African chiefs are guilty of slavery because they sold captives from enemy tribes to the slavers.

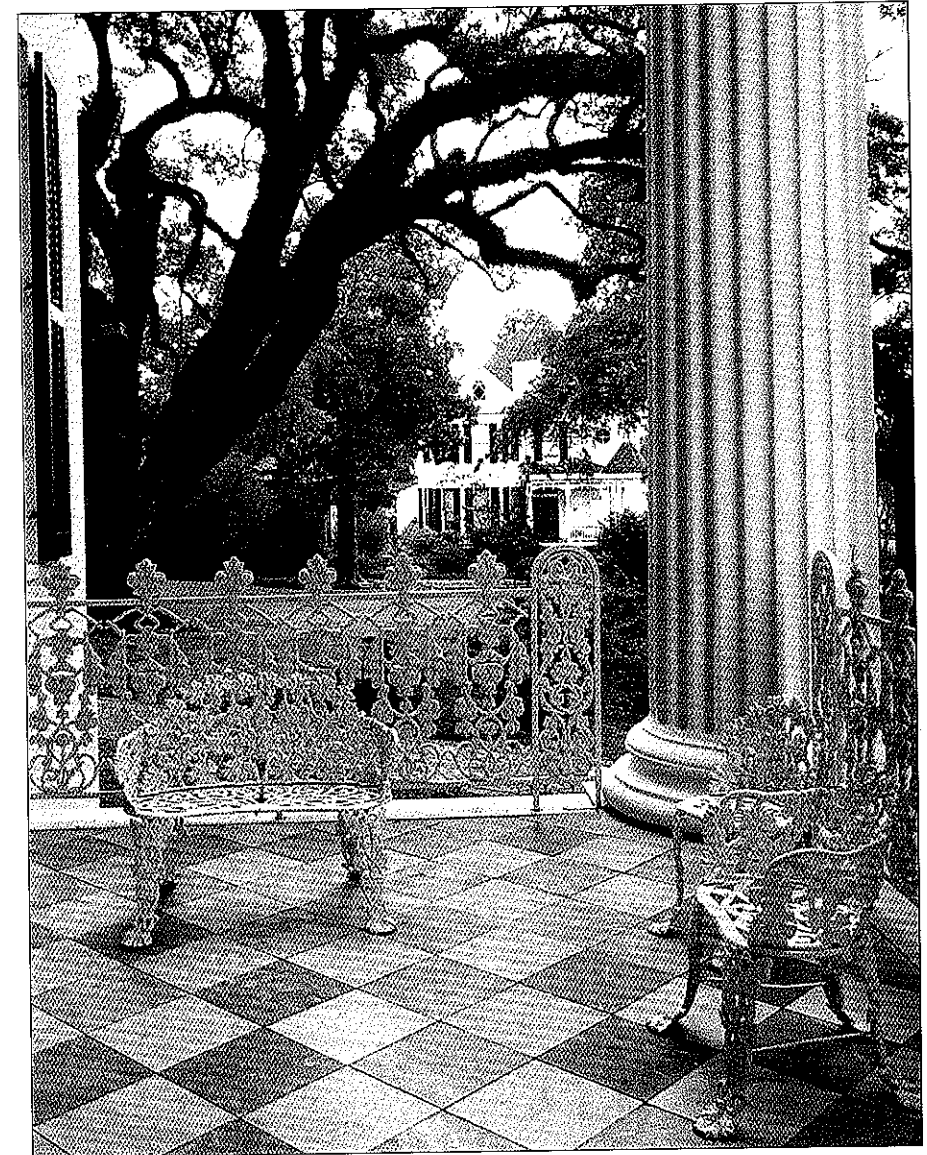
While the slave trade was illegal, slavery continued for those who were already in the USA. The treatment of slaves depended on the kind of master they had and the kind of work they did – servants and craftsmen in the plantation home were better off than field hands.

From the 1830s on, opposition to slavery grew. The abolition movement received support from the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) by Harriet Beecher Stowe and from the autobiographies of former slaves published in the North. As late as 1857, a U.S. Supreme Court decided that a slave was not a citizen and could not begin a legal



38a John Brown (1800–59),
American abolitionist

case against anyone. The occasional uprisings of slaves failed and so did the Abolitionist John Brown's attempt to organize one in October 1859. With his three sons and a group of supporters he tried to seize military weapons and start a revolution. He was captured by General



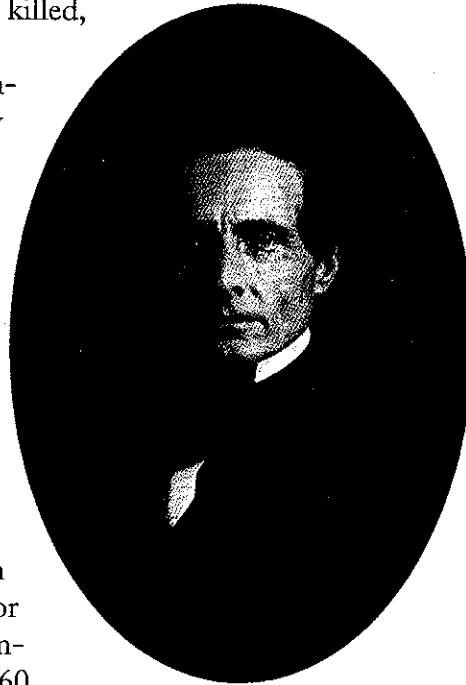
38b A plantation house

Lee and two of his sons were killed, while he himself was hanged.

By this time, **Abraham Lincoln** (1809–65) had been fairly widely known for twenty years. Born in a log cabin in Kentucky, in 1837 he became a partner in a law office in Springfield, Ill., and soon won recognition as an attorney. In 1846 he was elected to the House of Representatives, where he attracted attention for his opposition to the Mexican War, his opposition to slavery and his debates with a northern Democrat, a countercandidate for the presidency. As a result of Lincoln winning the election in 1860 (as the 16th President), Carolina seceded from the Union and was soon followed by ten other states, which later chose their own president, Jefferson Davis.

Soon afterwards Fort Sumter in Carolina was attacked by Confederate forces and so the **Civil War** (1861–65) broke out. The Confederacy of 11 southern states called it the War of Secession. The Texas Czechs mostly supported the Union, i. e. the North. Its soldiers, in blue uniforms, sang a song about John Brown, with the verse *John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave / but his soul goes marching on*. After four years of bloody fighting the North won the war, and General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomatox. Five days after the surrender, Lincoln was shot by the actor Booth during a performance at Ford's Theatre in Washington and died the next day.

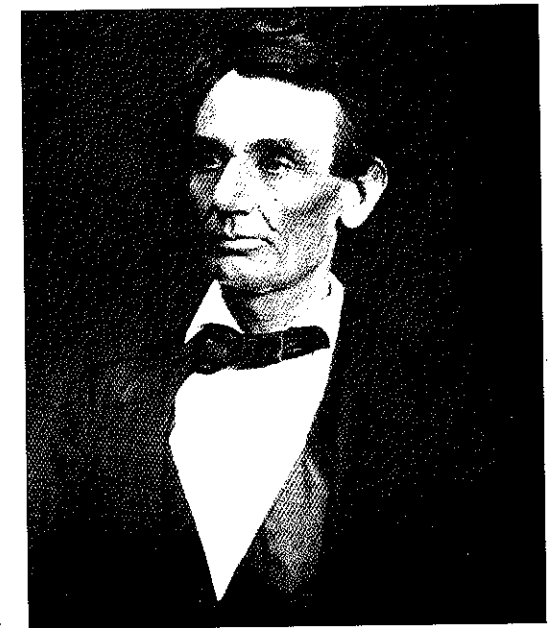
The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by Lincoln on 1 January 1863 – on that day the slaves were set free. From Lincoln's wartime speeches one that is especially famous is the short (ten sentences) Gettys-



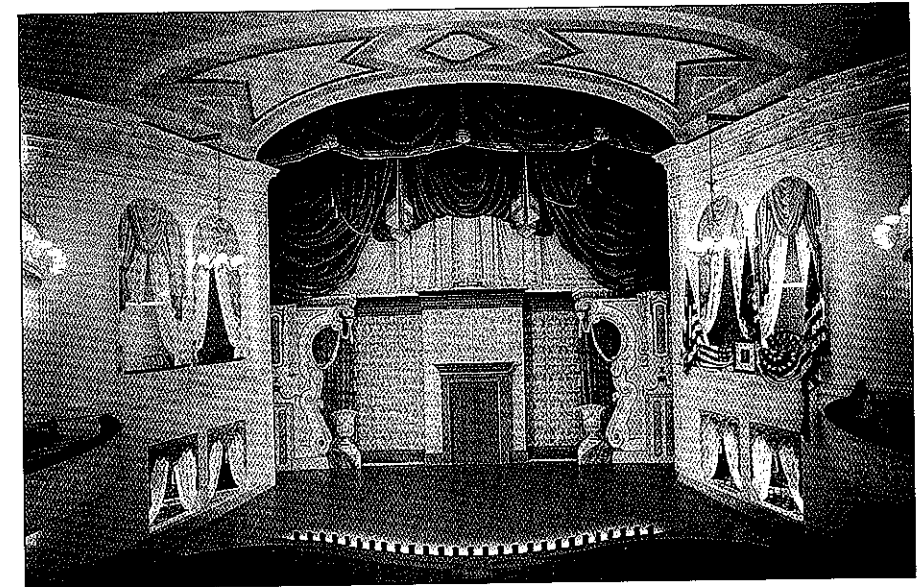
38c Jefferson Davis (1808–89),
president of the Confederacy
(1861–65)

burg Address, at a military cemetery, in November 1863. Lincoln stressed in his speech that the United States are dedicated to the idea that all men are created equal and that "government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

The North won the war and slavery was finished, but little was done to help the **Blacks**. They got less education, earned less money, and continued to suffer prejudice from the southern whites. After their defeat the southern states



38d Abraham Lincoln (1809–65),
16th President (1860–65)



38e Ford's Theater in Washington, where Lincoln was assassinated



38f The President's statue in the Lincoln Memorial

tried to limit the rights of the Blacks by various local laws, and the secret organization the Ku Klux Klan harassed or even lynched Blacks. Only after WWII did the movement for Civil Rights and the 1950s decisions of the Supreme Court against segregation and dis-



38g A drummer from the Union army

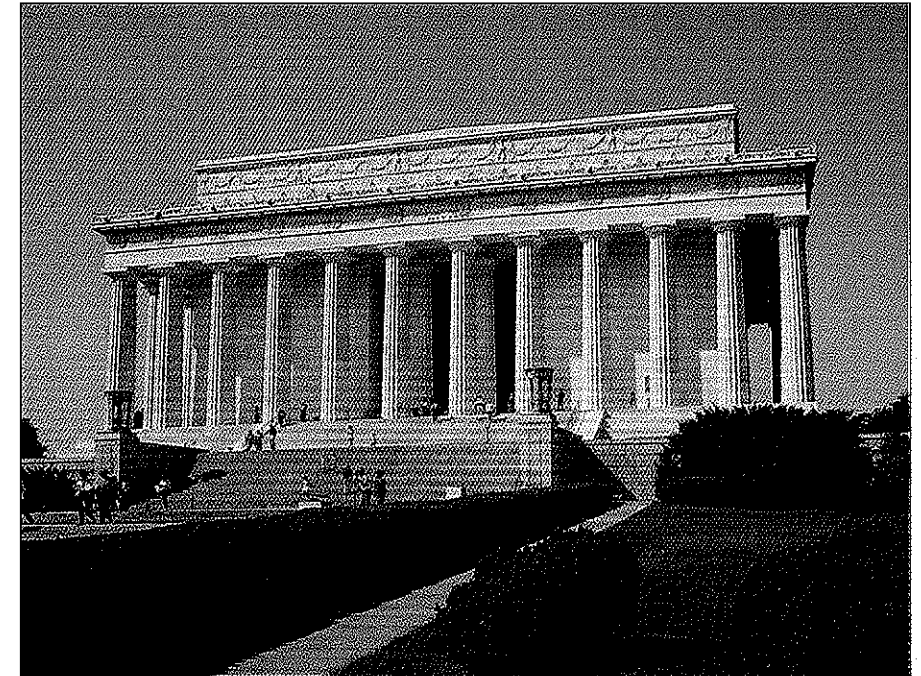
crimination against coloured people (the Civil Rights Acts) change the situation for ever. Even now, however, Blacks do not trust the Whites.

The Blacks did not keep their native African languages. They learned English but developed their own type of music – blues as stories of their suffering, spirituals and gospel songs as an expression of their Christian beliefs, and jazz, originally played by New Orleans street bands – and dances (e. g. the Charleston). The music was soon accepted by the white culture. Black English has minor differences in pronunciation and grammar from Standard American English (e. g. *he sick now, he be sick all week*).

The African-Americans are no longer the largest ethnic minority as they have been overtaken by the Hispanics: 35.3 million versus 35 m. Blacks.



38h Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–68), a black civil rights leader, assassinated in Memphis (Tennessee)



38i The Lincoln Memorial in Washington D. C.

HISPANICS

They are the Spanish-speaking population of the originally Mexican territory which later became part of the U.S.A., and then the immigrants from Mexico, Central and South America (these are also called Latinos), Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti; e. g. there is “another Havana” in Florida now (the sister, the daughter and granddaughter of Fidel Castro live in Miami). While most Hispanics immigrate (both legally and illegally) for economic reasons, for the citizens of Cuba, as additional motivation is the desire for freedom. Since the Hispanics live in large communities (e. g. most Puerto Ricans in New York), they keep their language and customs more easily than other immigrants. Their percentage in Arizona is 25%, in Texas 32%, and in New Mexico 42%.

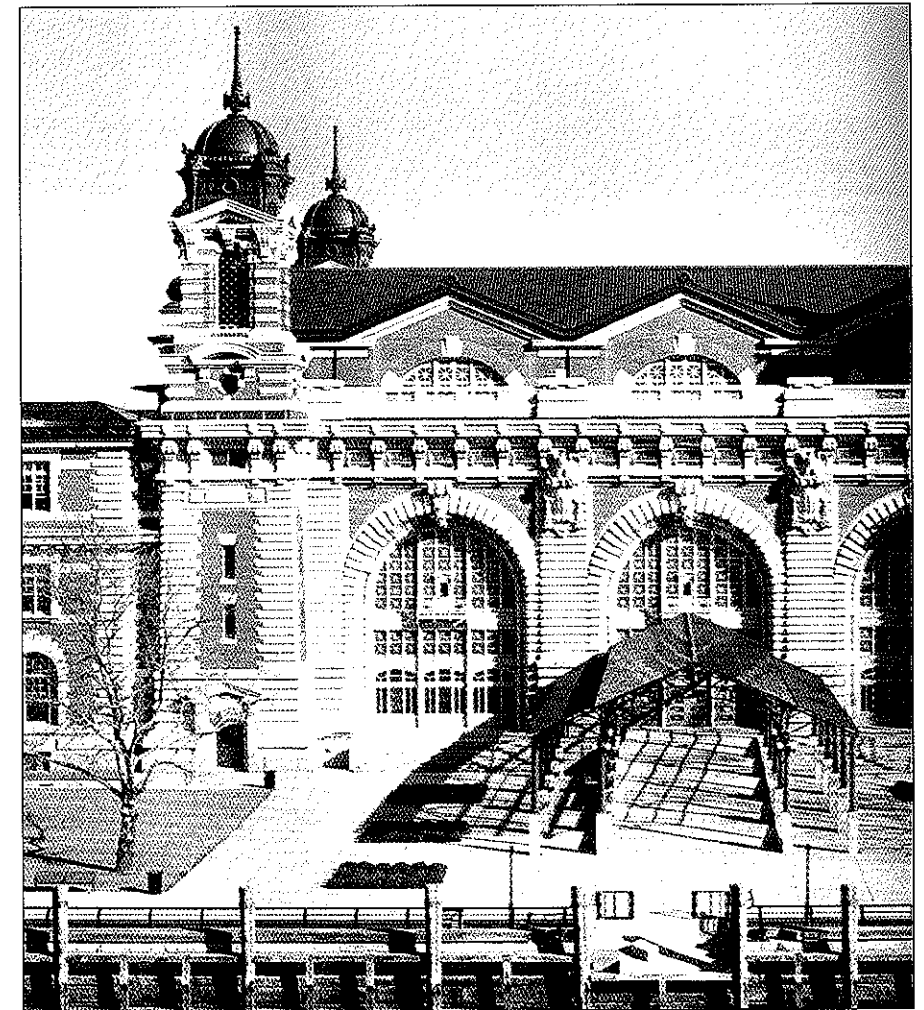
ASIAN-AMERICANS

In the 1860s, about 10,000 Chinese were given contracts as labourers for the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad – the kind of work in the wilderness that did not attract American workers. Half of the Chinese then left, but the rest stayed and took jobs as laundrymen, cooks and domestic servants. More men continued to immigrate from China, although they were not liked by the Americans. They were too different. They were able to save money even from low earnings. That was another reason for their unpopularity – they were ready to work for lower wages than whites. They were patient, never complained, and tended to live together in Chinatowns, where they could get their Chinese food. An Act of 1882 drastically reduced immigration from China and those Chinese already resident in the USA could not get American citizenship and without citizenship could not own land. There were 20 men per 1 woman because Chinese women were not allowed to enter the USA until the new immigration act in 1930. In 1943 the immigration ban of 1882 was abolished (China and USA were allies in the war by now).

The Chinese in the USA, whenever they could afford it, tried to get a good education for their children. That was the beginning of their long road to their present-day prestigious position in society. Many Chinese-Americans are prosperous in business, many work in science and professions (and have more PhDs per 1,000 than whites). The average income of second-generation Chinese-Americans is higher than that of other Americans. There is a lot of intermarriage with the whites. The number of immigrants began to rise in the 1960s and in 2000 over 1 million Chinese-Americans were born in China and Hong Kong. The total number of Asian-Americans (Chinese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Japanese, Filipinos, etc.) is 11 million.

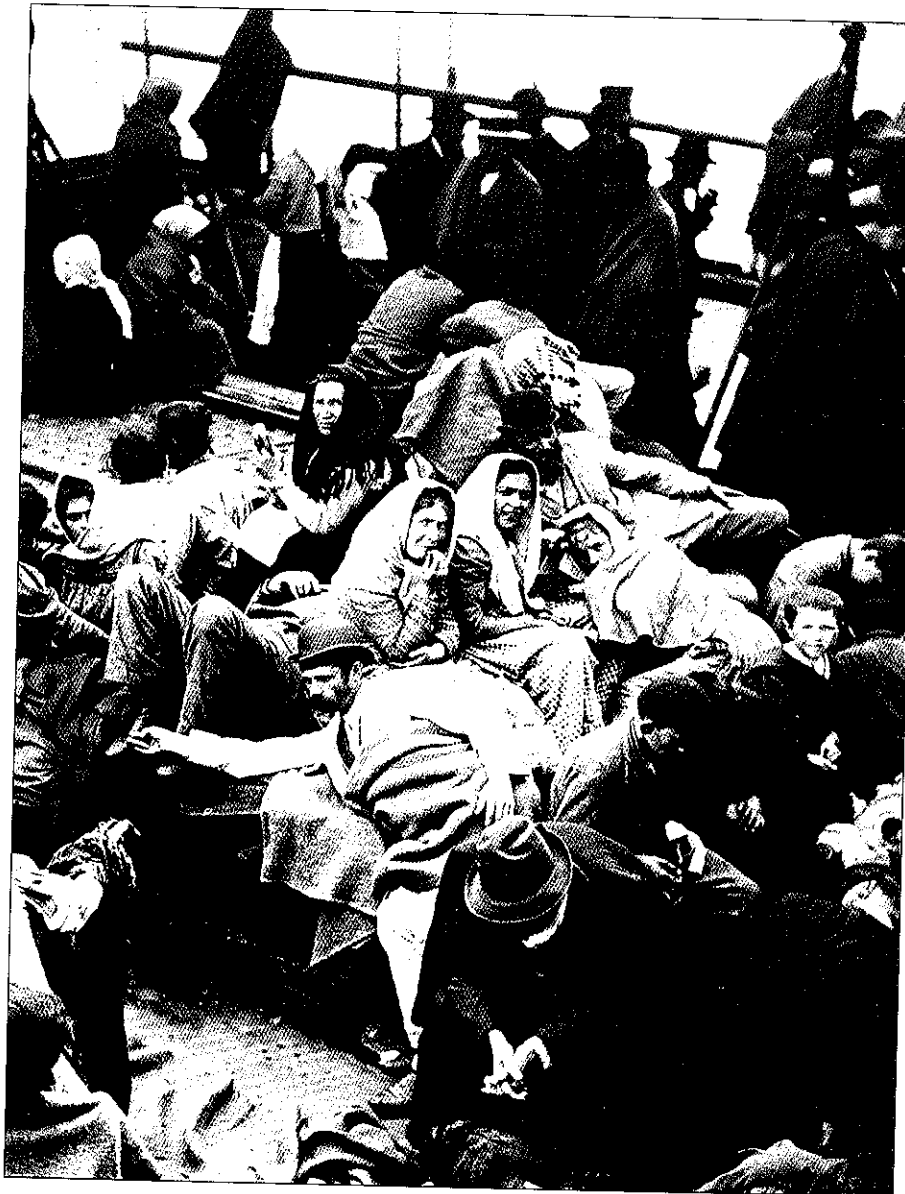
39 IMMIGRATION FROM EUROPE
IN THE 19th–20th CENTURIES

The first immigrants sought freedom and better opportunities in the New World. From the very beginning, British, French, Dutch, and Spanish immigrants settled on the continent. They continued to come in thousands and later, when Germans, Slavs, Jews and Italians



39a Ellis Island in New York Bay, chief immigration station 1892–1943

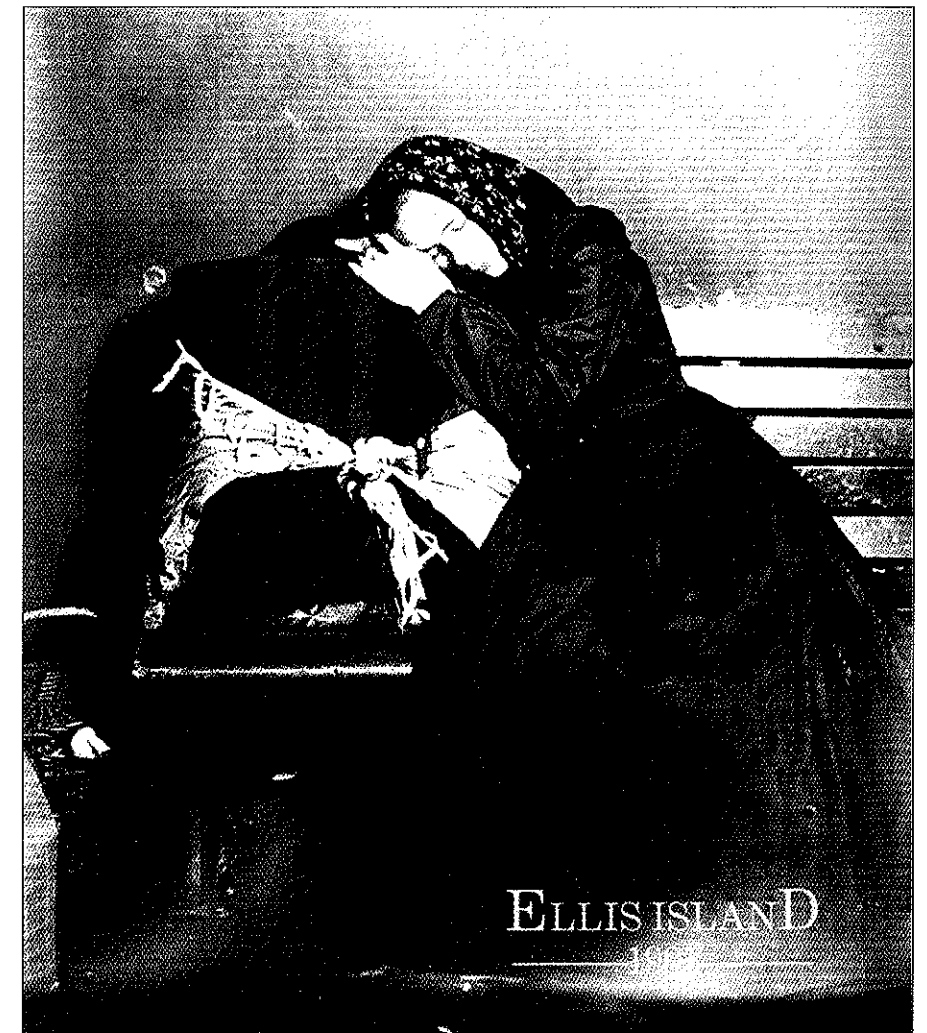
decided to leave Europe, they came in millions. In the 19th century, only illiteracy and epilepsy were a barrier; there were also restrictions on Asians. European immigrants entered the U.S. mainly through the



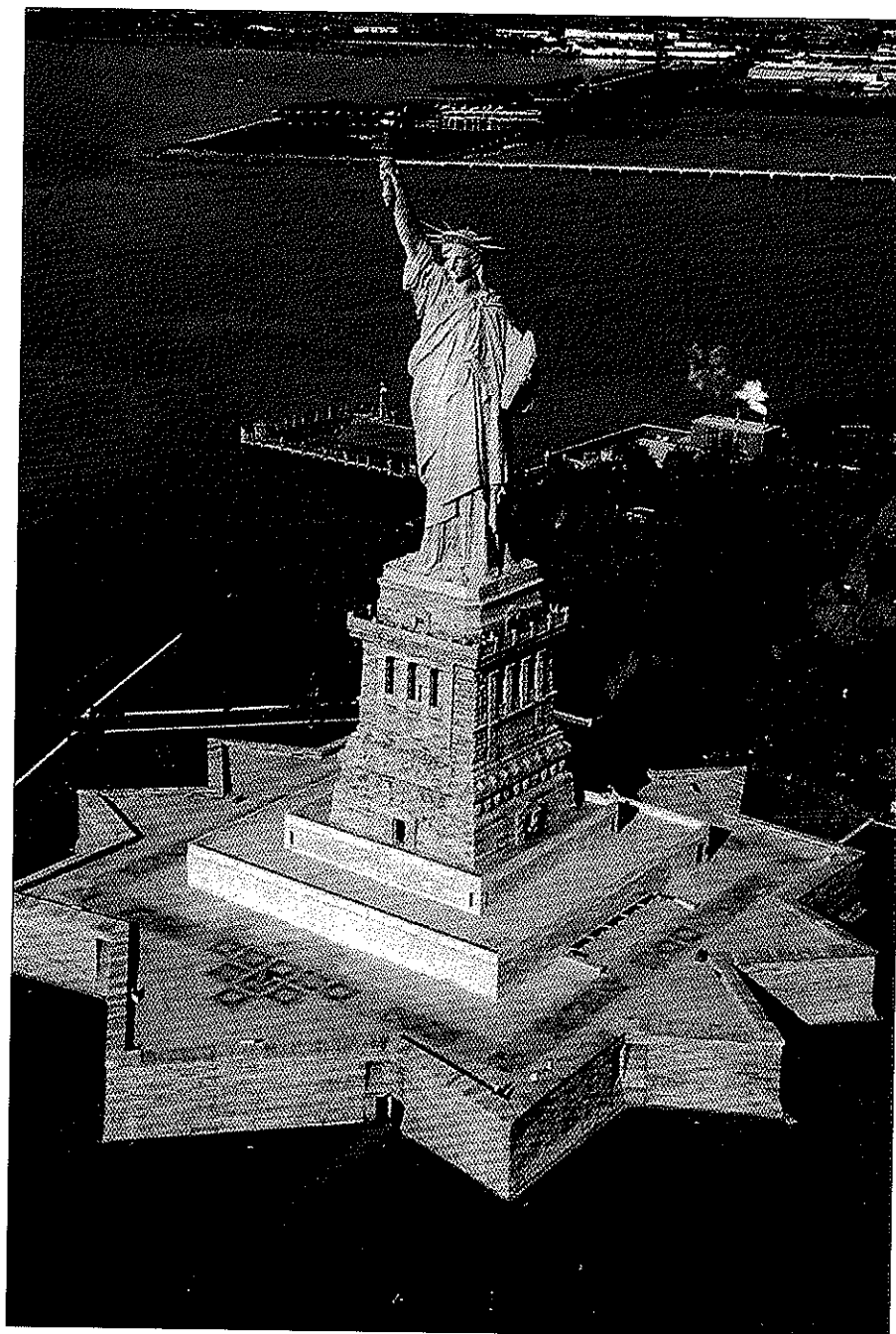
39b Immigrants aboard a ship

Immigration Office on Ellis Island in New York (now it is a museum of immigration).

Czech farming people settled in the Midwest and Texas, where land was cheap or free. Slovaks came one generation later, when there was no more free land, and so they took jobs in industries in big cities, such as Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Chicago, which became home for many Czechs as well. In 1870, there were 40,000 Czechs in



39c An immigrant on Ellis Island in 1905



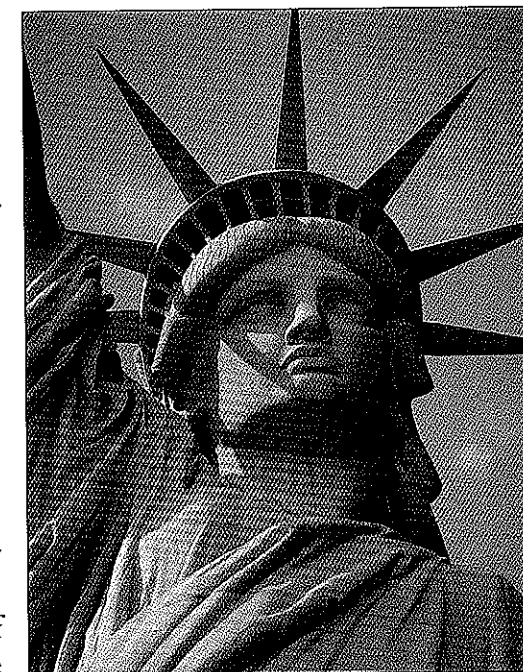
39d The Statue of Liberty (1884), a national monument

the U.S.A., and now Czech origin is acknowledged by 1.5 million Americans. In the 20th century, the U.S.A. twice became a refuge for thousands of Czechs escaping from Nazism (1938–39) and from Communist persecution (1948, 1968).

To enter the U.S.A., Czechs now need a visa both as tourists and immigrants. On arrival in the U.S.A., one may apply for a green card (the work permit) and after five years of permanent residency one may apply for citizenship and thus become a naturalized U.S. citizen. The latest immigration laws allow more immigrants from South and Central America and from Asia to enter the U.S.A. – about half a million per year.

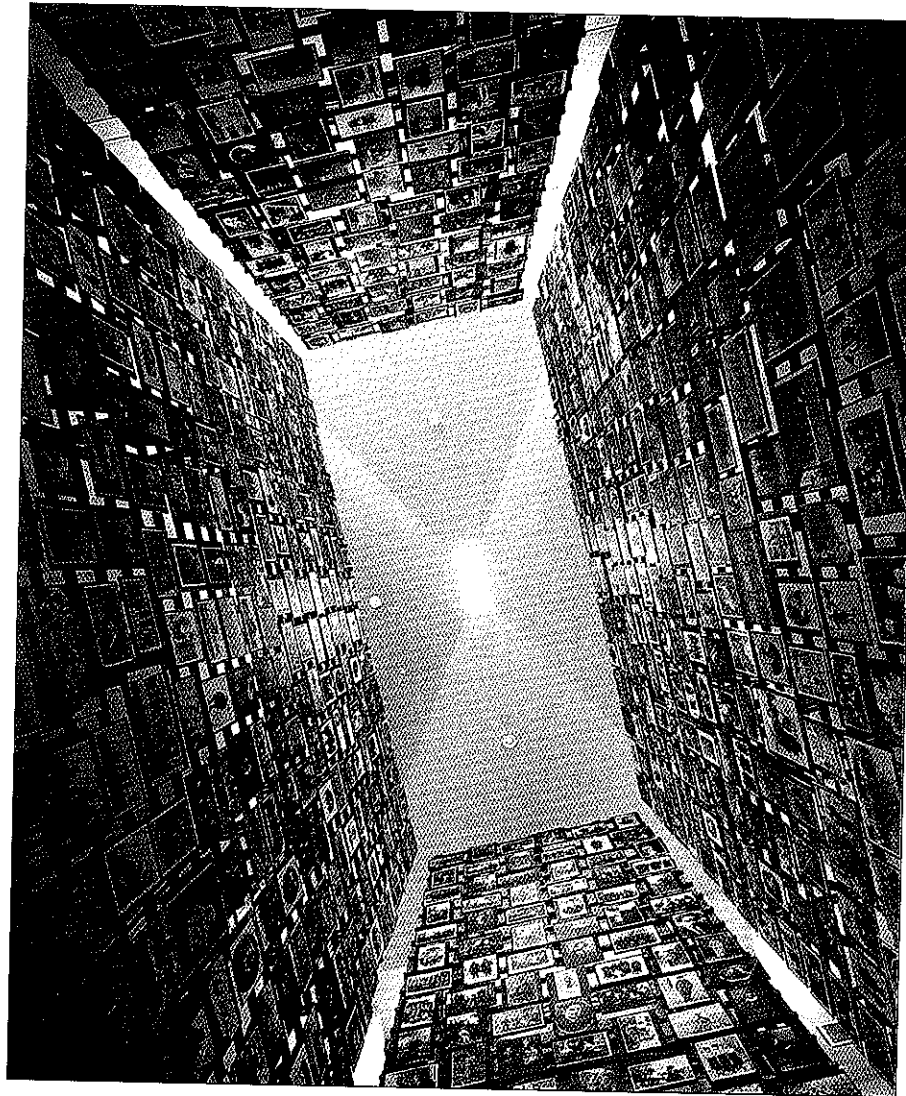
American society is divided into the rich, the medium prosperous, and the poor (now called underprivileged or disadvantaged). The first ethnic group that rose in society were the Jews (in memory of the European Jews killed by the Nazis, a U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was opened in Washington D.C. in 1993). Class differences exist but social mobility (“from rags to riches”) is possible through the possession of money earned by hard work. Most Americans regard themselves as middle class.

In Britain the word “immigrants” is often associated with their adaptation problems. In the U.S.A. it is known that the country was built by immigrants and so the word has a very positive meaning. Each year, Ellis Island Medals are awarded by the U.S. President in honor of contributions made by first-generation immigrants. One of



39e The viewing gallery in the head of the Statue of Liberty

the recipients of the medal is the tennis champion Martina Navrátilová. A message designed by a second-generation German American, the astronomer Carl Sagan, has been carried by two American spacecraft into outer space, in an attempt at mankind's communication with extraterrestrial beings.



39f The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D. C. (1993): photographs of Jews from a Lithuanian town destroyed in 1941

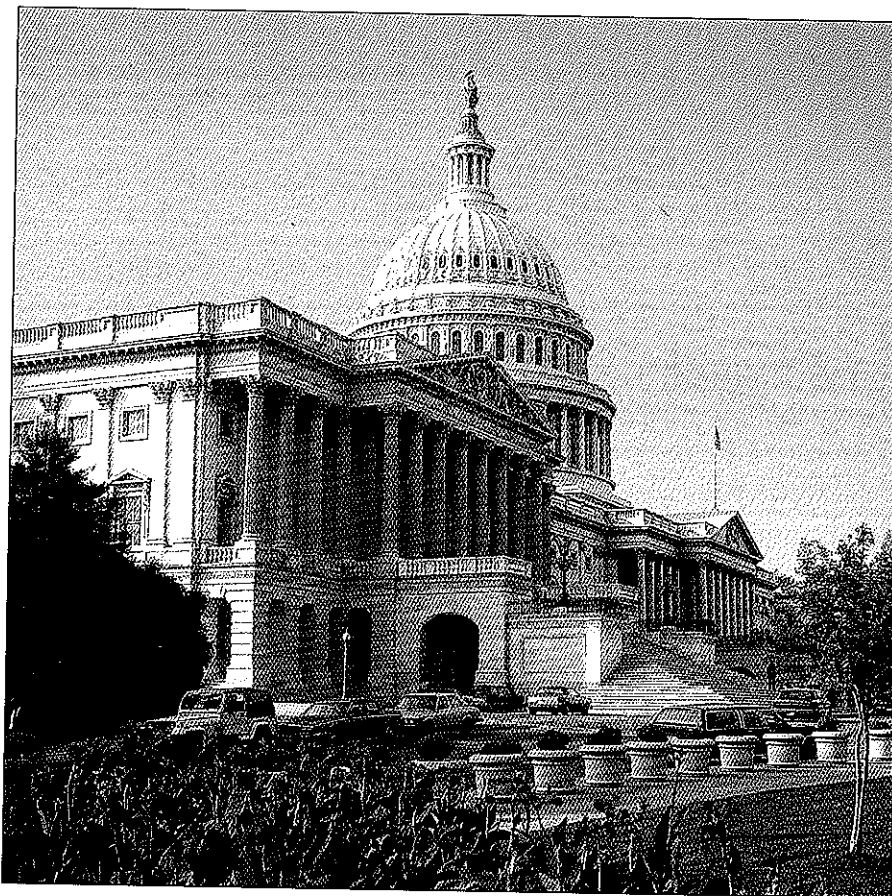


39g Amerikán, a national calendar of American Czechs (issued 1897–1957), a 1947 issue

40 THE U.S. SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

The federal government consists of three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.

The legislative branch – the **Congress**, has two chambers. In the House of Representatives, the states have representation according to the size of their population (e. g. Delaware 2, California 52 among the 435 Representatives). The House introduces proposals for laws. The Senate, the Upper House, has 100 Senators, two from each state, so that small states have the same voice as the big ones. Laws must be passed by both Houses. The Senate has special responsibility for foreign policy.

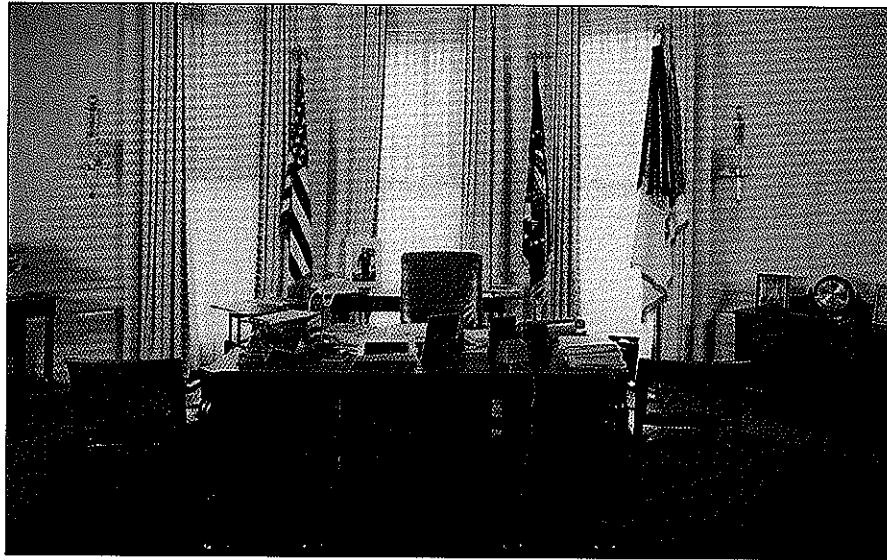


40a U.S. Congress on Capitol Hill



40b The White House at Christmas

The executive branch is represented by the **President**, the head of the state, and by the government departments. His office in the White House is called the Oval Office. Each year he gives a State of the Union Address to Congress, i. e. information on the state of the U.S.A. and the plans and policies. The speech is shown on national television. His office is more powerful and prestigious than e. g. that of a French, German or Czech president, and he has more influence on foreign policy than the Secretary of State (i. e. the Minister of Foreign Affairs). He is also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. He can serve a maximum of two four-year terms.



40c The Oval Office in the White House

The judicial branch consists of the **Supreme Court**, the highest court and court of appeal in the U.S., with nine judges, called justices. They are appointed for life by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Court interprets the Constitution. If it says that a law is unconstitutional, the law cannot become valid, unless an amendment is added to the Constitution – a complicated process, which has succeeded only 27 times in more than 200 years. Many of the Supreme Court decisions were important for the history of the country (e. g. rights for people of all races, equal rights for women and men).

The **Constitution** was written by the leaders of the Revolution (prominent among them was Thomas Jefferson, later the 3rd U.S. President) in 1787, when they met in Philadelphia. It was ratified by all 13 states. The constitution established the three branches of government (the principle is the separation of powers). The first ten amendments, now called the Bill of Rights, were made in 1791 and cover the right to free speech, freedom of religion, the right not to be arrested or searched without a good reason, and the right of anyone accused of a crime to have a fair trial.

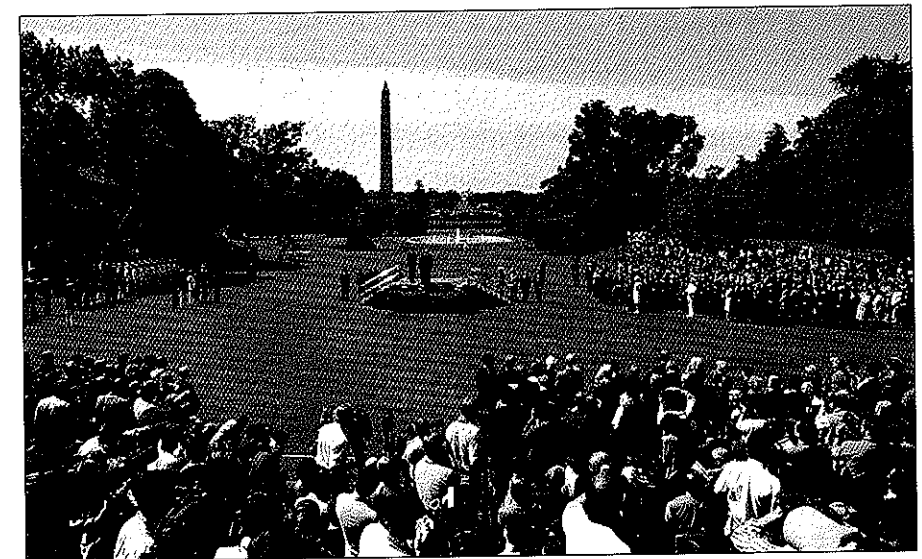
Congressional elections are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November. The main competing political parties now are the Democrats and the Republicans.

Presidential elections are also held every four years. The candidate who “runs” for the Presidency makes an election campaign with debates and rallies. The candidates are chosen by the parties through primary elections held in every state, but the final choice is made at a party convention in the summer. In November the citizens go to vote (voter participation is about 50%) and elect one of the two (rarely three) candidates. The inauguration of the new President is on 20 January in Washington D.C., when he takes the oath of office.

State government is fashioned after the federal (national) government, but at the head is a **Governor**, not a state president.

Law enforcement is in the hands of the state police and the federal police F.B.I. (Federal Bureau of Investigation), which is part of the Department of Justice. It has its headquarters in Washington D.C. and field offices in all large cities. The Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.), also an agency of the U.S. Government, analyzes intelligence obtained from various sources.

The **U.S. Flag**, the Stars and Stripes, is an important symbol for Americans. The original flag at the beginning of the American Revolution had 13 stripes, 7 red and 6 white, and in one corner



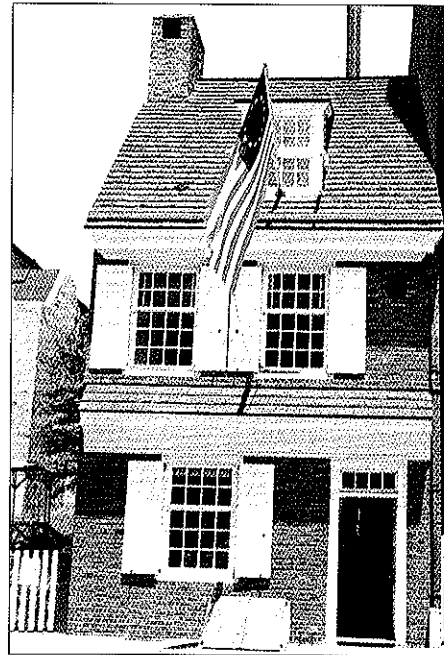
40d Official reception of a foreign statesman in the grounds of the White House

13 white stars arranged in a circle on a blue background to represent the 13 independent states. It became the official flag in 1777. It has not been changed since; only the number of stars has grown to 50, arranged in five rows. The flag flies from the flagpoles of U.S. Government offices and schools. Citizens put out the flag outside their houses especially on Independence Day and children start the school day by saying the Pledge of Allegiance, a promise to be loyal to their country. Each of the U.S. states also has its own flag, usually with an emblem.

U.S. Currency. In circulation there are coins (dime = 10 cents, quarter = 25 cents, half-dollar) and 7 bills (in Br.E. banknotes), each with the portrait of a distinguished American and a picture on the back: \$1 Washington, Great Seal of the U.S.; \$2 Jefferson, Signers of the Declaration; \$5 Lincoln, the Lincoln Memorial; \$10 Hamilton, U.S. Treasury; \$20 Jackson, the White House; \$50 Grant, the U.S. Capitol; \$100 Franklin, Independence Hall (in Philadelphia). The design of the bills has never changed. Between 1996 and 2003, \$100, \$50 and \$20 bills were issued, which incorporate new anti-counterfeiting features. Old bills will gradually be removed from circulation.



40f George Washington on the \$1 bill



40e The first U.S. flag (with 13 stars) on the home of Betsy Ross in Philadelphia. She is the reputed maker of the flag.



Occasionally, commemorative dollar coins have been minted: with portraits of Eisenhower, Susan B. Anthony (a reformer), Sacagawea (a Shoshone woman who helped guide the Lewis and Clark expedition to the West), and many more anniversary coins.

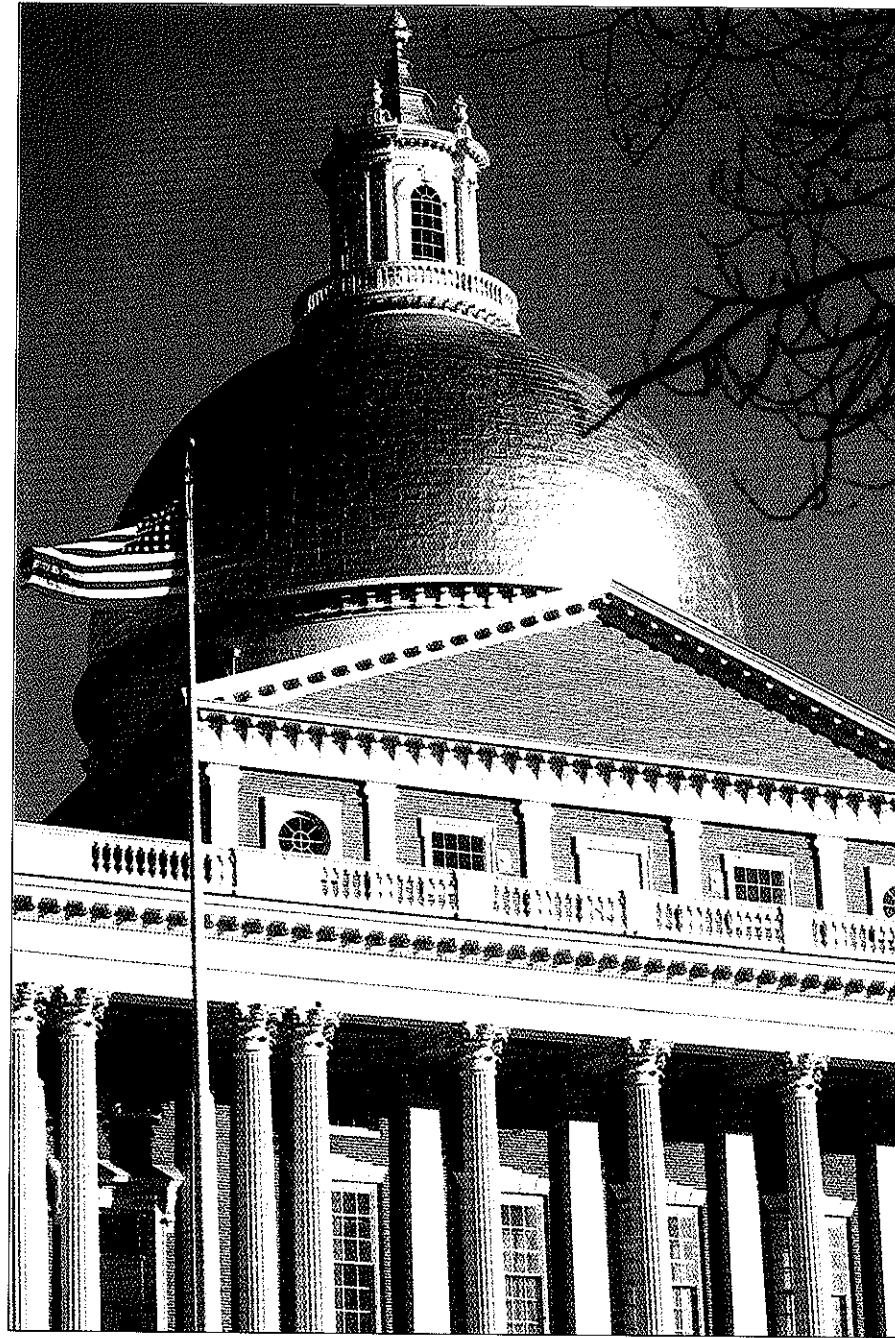
The National Anthem. The text of The Star-Spangled Banner was written by a Maryland lawyer, Francis Scott Key, after he saw, in September 1814, the British bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore. The tune of an English song, "Anacreon in Heaven", was chosen by his brother-in-law. The song was ordered to be played by the Army and Navy from 1916 and was designated the national anthem by Act of Congress in 1931. The first stanza:

Oh say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



40g The National Anthem

Yankee Doodle. A patriotic air. Originally sung by the British to make fun of the Americans (Yankees) in the Revolutionary War. After the defeat of the British troops, the Yankees themselves started singing it. Now it is the signature tune of the Voice of America broadcasts.



40h The Massachusetts State House (state capitol, 1798) in Boston

41 FOUR NOTED 20th-CENTURY PRESIDENTS

Franklin Delano ROOSEVELT (1882–1945), 32nd president (1936–45), Democrat

A lawyer (graduate of Columbia Law School), he came from a wealthy family. He entered politics and was already in a government office in WWI. In 1921, polio paralyzed his legs but he recovered sufficiently to return to active life and was elected governor of New York. Four years later, in 1936, he was elected President. He proclaimed the New Deal program, far-reaching social and economic reforms to solve the problems of



41a President Franklin D. Roosevelt

the Depression of the 1930s, esp. high unemployment. He stimulated the economy by public works (e. g. the construction of power stations on the Tennessee River), expanded the controls of the central government over business, and through taxes redistributed earnings. He also repealed Prohibition. While domestic problems dominated his first term, later he had to deal with international politics and the American war effort. He was hostile to fascism even before WWII and helped to make America "an arsenal for democracy". In 1941 he urged the acceptance of Four Freedoms (of speech, of worship, from want, from fear). Several times during the war he went to conferences with the heads of the Allies, the last being in Yalta (February 1945), where the Soviets were given power over Central and Eastern Europe. Roosevelt trusted Stalin's promise that in the Soviet sphere of

influence democracy would be preserved. He was the first president to use radio for "fireside chats" and the first and last president to serve more than two terms. In 1944 he was reelected for the 4th time, despite failing health. He died before the war ended.

Dwight EISENHOWER (1890–1969), 34th President (1953–61), Republican

A native of Texas, he was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (NY). In 1943 he became supreme Allied commander in Europe and led the Normandy invasion on 6 June 1944. On May 7, 1945, he received the surrender of the Germans at Rheims (France). After the war he served in the Army, visited Prague, published his war memoirs, and was in command of the NATO forces. When he resigned from the army, he was nominated for the presidency by the Republicans and in 1953 was elected. He was moderate in his support of the free market system and against government price and wage controls. He promoted missile programmes, continued foreign aid to governments threatened by communism, and was in favour of the "open skies policy", that is, mutual inspection by satellites of the USA and the USSR, which, however, was rejected by the Soviets. He supported the desegregation program in the South. After his 2nd term he lived in retirement at his farm in Pennsylvania but occasionally counselled his three successors in the White House.



41b Dwight Eisenhower as Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe

John Fitzgerald KENNEDY (1917–1963), 35th President (1961–63), Democrat

Kennedy was the son of a Massachusetts financier, who later became Ambassador to Great Britain. He received a B.S. from Harvard. In 1941–45 he served in the Navy and commanded a PT boat in the Pacific and survived its sinking. His book *Profiles of Courage* was published just when he entered politics, first as a Representative, later as Senator for Massachusetts. In 1960, as a presidential nominee (the youngest in American history), he defeated



41c President John F. Kennedy

Richard Nixon in one of the closest of elections. In his Inauguration Speech he appealed for the cooperation of all nations to build a safe and free world. A famous sentence from this speech is: "Fellow citizens, do not ask what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." He was the first Roman Catholic president. In 1961 he faced his first international crisis, when an invasion of anti-Castro Cubans, trained by the CIA, failed to seize Cuba. And the next year the Soviet Union established missile sites in Cuba. The President's firm attitude, however, made the Soviets abolish the bases. He backed civil rights and medical care for the aged and set up the Peace Corps, as a form of assistance for underdeveloped countries. After the launching of the Russian Sputnik in 1957, he urged an American space program, with the goal of putting a man on the Moon and bringing him safely back, and all that within ten years. It bore fruit in 1962, when the

astronaut John Glenn orbited the earth. Kennedy did not live to see an American walking on the Moon. On November 22, 1963, on a speaking tour, accompanied by his wife Jacqueline, he was assassinated in Dallas (Texas), shot dead in his car by a sniper hidden in a building. After his death, Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson automatically became President.

Ronald REAGAN (1911–2004), 40th President (1981–89), Republican

After graduation from college he worked as a sports announcer in Iowa. When 26, he started a successful career as a film actor and starred in numerous movies until the 1960s, when he became active in politics. In WWII he was a captain in the Army Air Force. He was twice elected Governor of California, and in 1980 in presidential elections won a landslide victory over Jimmy Carter, his predecessor in office. At 73, he was the oldest man ever elected President. His economic program included the largest budget and largest tax cuts in U.S. history. In 1981 he



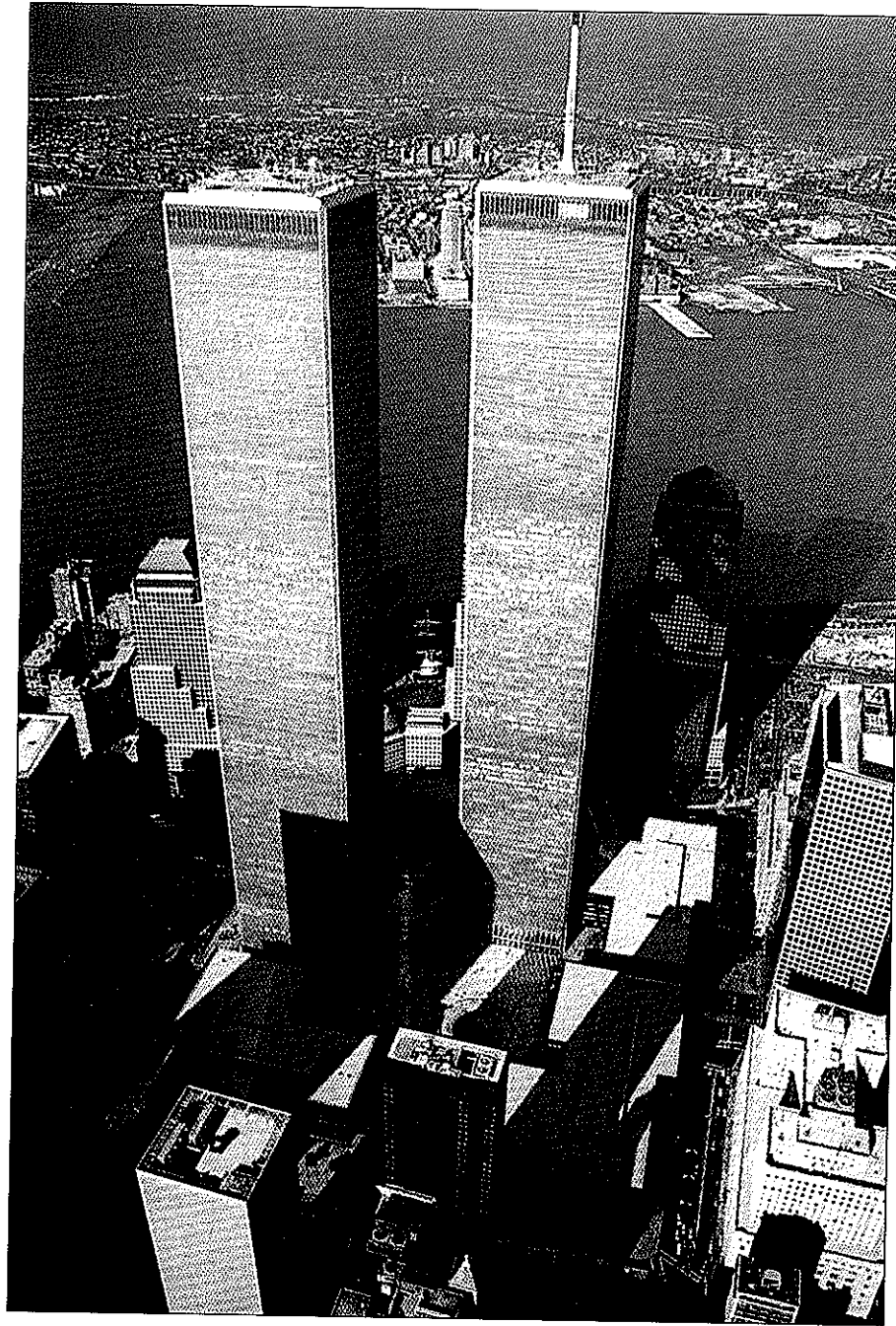
41d President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987

was shot by a young man and underwent major surgery. His opposition to international terrorism led to the American bombing of Libyan military installations in 1986. He strongly supported anti-communist governments and forces throughout the world and the development of new weapons (this contributed to the collapse of communism in 1989). The aid sent to the rebels fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan, however, later turned out to have been a mistake. He held three summit meetings with the Soviet leader Gorbachev and signed a historic treaty eliminating missiles from Europe. In Moscow he met with Soviet dissidents. As Reagan left office, the nation was experiencing its sixth consecutive year of economic prosperity. After his 2nd term, he retired to California and, when 83, in a letter he took leave of the nation and revealed that he was ill with Alzheimer's disease, which would bring a complete loss of memory.

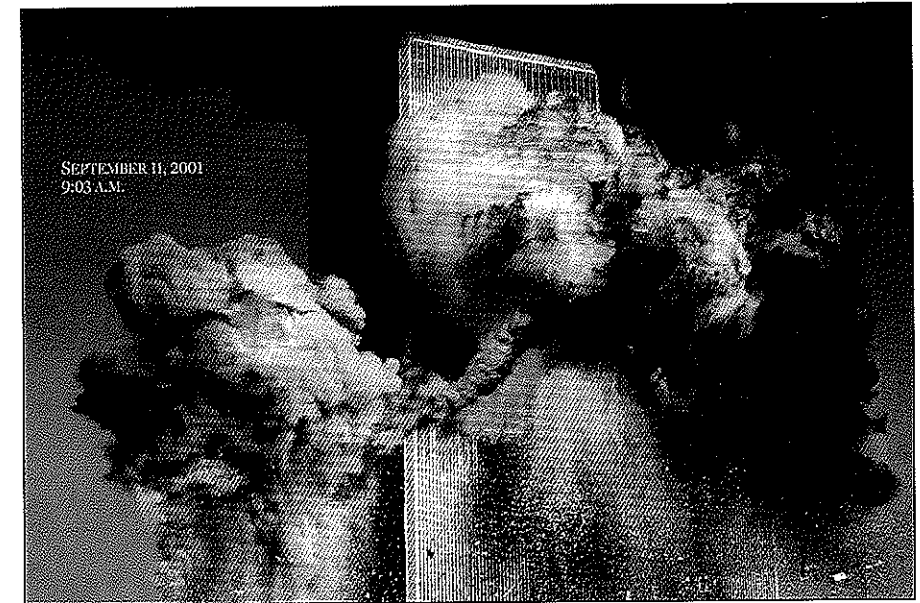
POSTWAR U.S. PRESIDENTS

(Democrat / Republican, year of inauguration, President's age)

33	Harry S. Truman	Dem.	1945	60
34	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Rep.	1953	62
35	John F. Kennedy	Dem.	1961	43
36	Lyndon B. Johnson	Dem.	1963	55
37	Richard M. Nixon	Rep.	1969	56
38	Gerald Ford	Rep.	1974	61
39	Jimmy Carter	Dem.	1977	52
40	Ronald Reagan	Rep.	1981	69
41	George H. W. Bush	Rep.	1989	64
42	Bill Clinton	Dem.	1993	46
43	George W. Bush	Rep.	2001	54



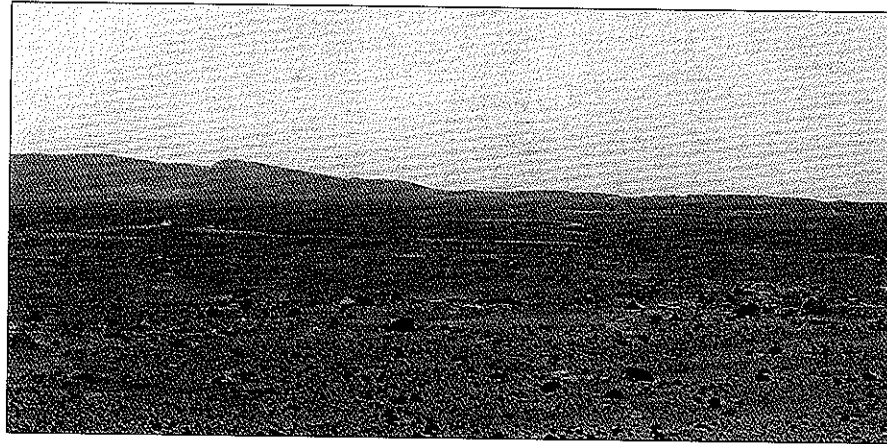
45g The twin towers of the World Trade Center (410m, 110 storeys) in New York



45h The World Trade Center under terrorist attack on 11 Sept. 2001

the late 1970s, by the postmodernist style, with more emphasis on decoration. Now three of the four tallest American skyscrapers are in Chicago.

The World Trade Center in New York entered history first as the second-tallest skyscraper in the world (110 storeys, 412m, after the Sears Tower in Chicago, built in 1974, also with 110 storeys) and then, on September 11, 2001, as the target of a terrorist attack on a scale not imagined before. When the twin towers crashed after they were struck by two airliners hijacked by Arab terrorists, they buried some 2,800 people in the rubble. The disaster, however, only increased the American resolution to resist the forces of evil and pass from defence to counterattack.



46h The surface of Mars, as seen by the Mars Rover during the Mars Pathfinder mission in 1997

American movies are watched in all the countries of the world. Hollywood invented two popular film genres – the western and the animated cartoon.

Several modern ideas have also originated in the U.S., e. g. multiculturalism, feminism (the Women's Liberation movement), the gay movement, affirmative action, counterculture, and the anti-smoking campaign.

47 THE ROAD TO A MODERN SUPERPOWER

American foreign policy started with the War of Independence, which led to the recognition of the U.S.A by Britain in 1783. About 30 years later, however, another armed conflict with Britain broke out (1812–15). The British troops (Redcoats) briefly occupied Washington and burnt down the White House but finally were defeated.

The Americans at first tried to forget their roots in Europe and their 19th-century policy concentrated on expanding the borders from coast to coast. The first war waged outside U.S. territory was over Cuba (1898). In this the Americans had the support of the Cubans, who wanted independence from Spain.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, the Americans were on the side of the British but did not interfere until in 1915 a German submarine sank the British passenger ship the Lusitania (among the 1,200 people who drowned were 128 Americans). The U.S. declared war in 1916 and brought over two million soldiers to European battlefields. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of WWI is located in Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington. It has since been renamed the Tomb of the Unknowns, in honor of unknown Americans who were killed in

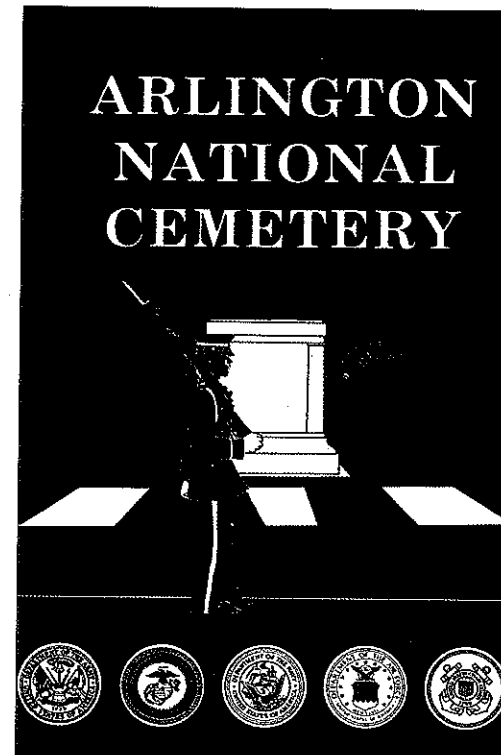
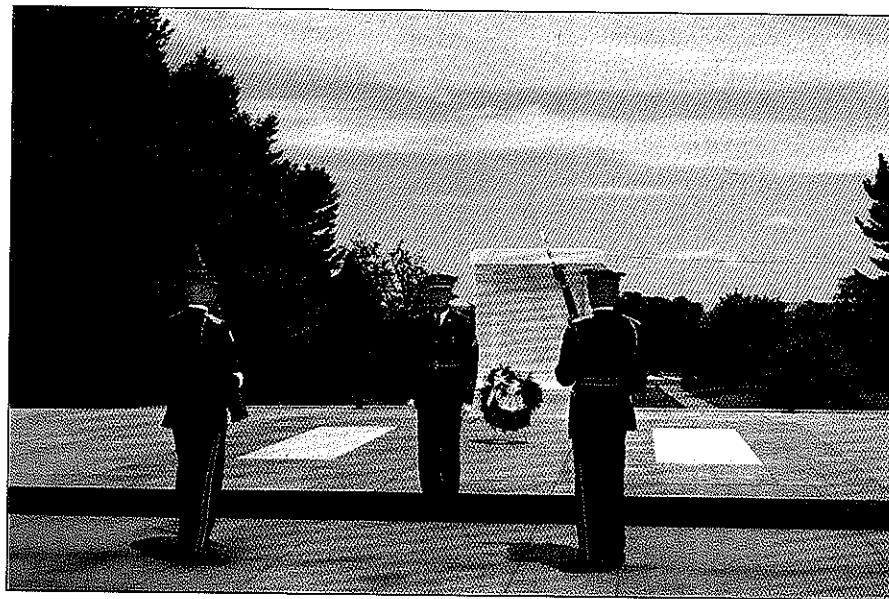


47a Recruiting poster (Join the Navy) from World War I

both World Wars and in the Korean War. A continuous vigil is maintained by the Tomb Guard.

In the interwar period, two dramatic events took place, the passing of Prohibition (in force 1919–1933), when it was illegal to make or sell alcoholic drinks, and the Wall Street Crash in 1929, when the New York Stock Exchange collapsed and many businesses and banks failed and millions of people lost their savings and

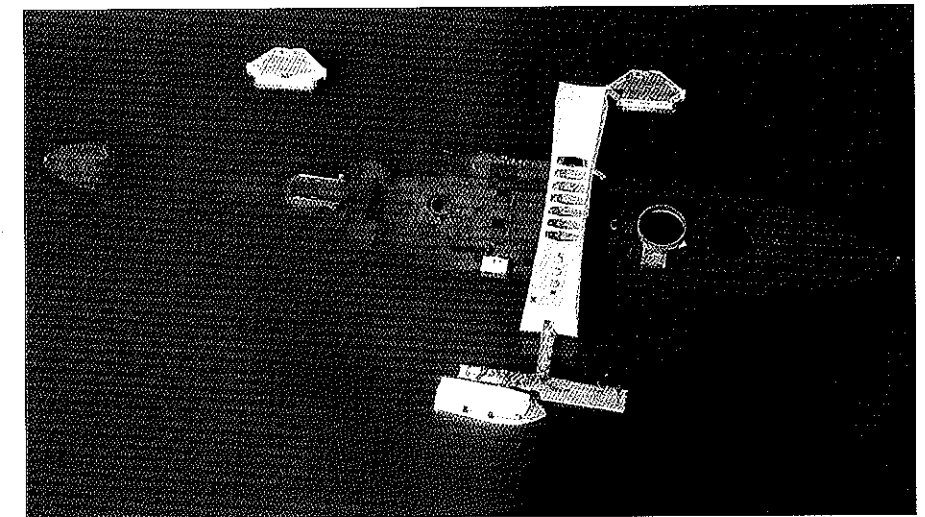
47b The Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington



jobs. The Great Depression lasted until WWII.

In international politics isolationism prevailed, so that when WWII broke out, it again needed an outside stimulus, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, for the anti-war politicians to accept the necessity of declaring war on the Axis (Germany, Italy, Japan). President Roosevelt was from the beginning for military and economic

47c A propaganda poster (United we will win) from World War II



47d The Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor: the sunken battleship is the grave of 1,177 men

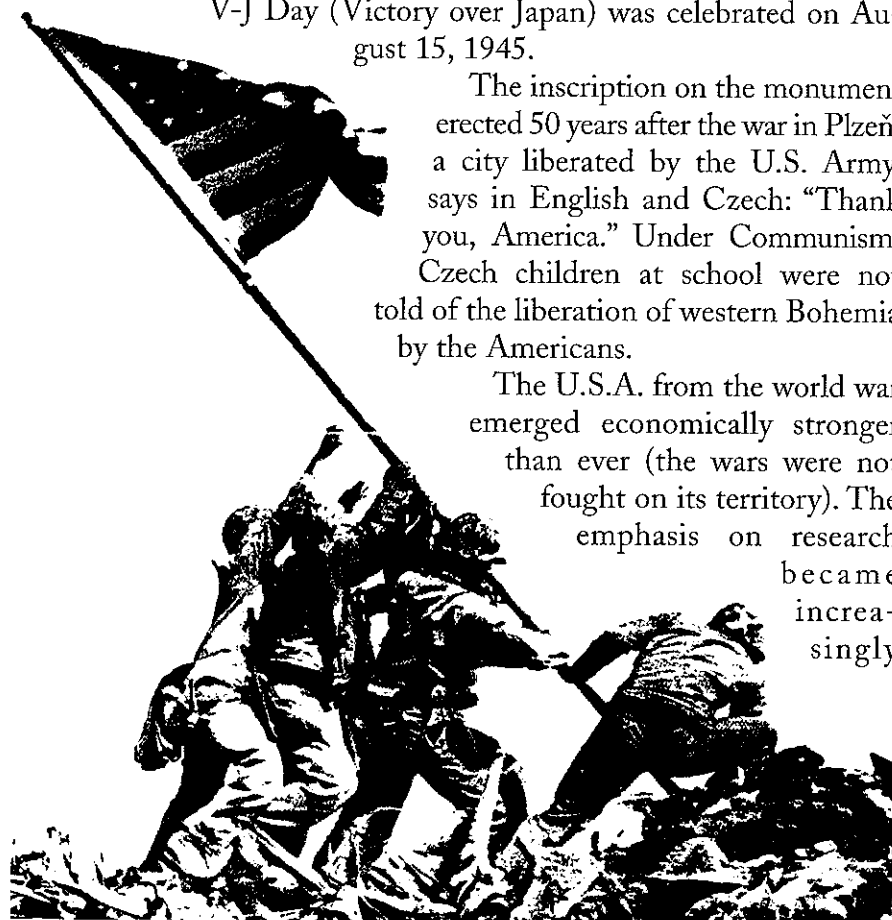
assistance to the lonely Britain (remember that for the first two years of the war, Germany and the Soviet Union were allies). In all, 4.5 million G.I.s (a popular name for U.S. soldiers) were mobilized to fight in Europe and in the Pacific; 292,000 were killed (including the crew of the *Arizona*).

It needed two atomic bombs dropped on two cities in Japan before the Japanese military leadership announced its surrender. At the cost of the more than 100,000 casualties in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, at least one million lives were saved – the Japanese generals wanted to fight on in the Pacific, to the last soldier, like e. g. in Iwo Jima.

V-J Day (Victory over Japan) was celebrated on August 15, 1945.

The inscription on the monument erected 50 years after the war in Plzeň, a city liberated by the U.S. Army, says in English and Czech: "Thank you, America." Under Communism, Czech children at school were not told of the liberation of western Bohemia by the Americans.

The U.S.A. from the world war emerged economically stronger than ever (the wars were not fought on its territory). The emphasis on research became increasingly



47c U.S. Marines raising the flag on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima in February 1945 (where 4,500 of them were killed and 15,000 wounded)

important because science and technology now began to play a much greater role in the development of the country. Today the strength of the American armed forces is not based on the number of servicemen but on hi-tech superiority. At the same time, the U.S.A. has kept attracting new immigrants, usually more enterprising people than those who stayed behind.

The rift between the wartime allies, the U.S.A. and the USSR, started soon after the war. In March 1946, Sir Winston Churchill chose

a small American town of 10,000 residents, Fulton in Missouri, for his observation "that from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended." He chose Fulton because the Westminster college there had the ruins of a London church destroyed in 1940 shipped to its campus and reassembled there. In 1992 Fulton welcomed another distinguished visitor, the person who ended the Cold War, Mikhail Gorbachev. He spoke about the United Nations from the same podium as Churchill. As a symbol of the end of the Cold War, a monument named "Breakthrough" was built on the campus, out of a 3-m section of the Berlin Wall, which was pulled down in the revolution of December 1989. The sculptor was Churchill's granddaughter.

While in culture the U.S.A. in the 19th century was behind Europe, the generous support of wealthy capitalists (from Andrew Carnegie to Paul Getty and Bill Gates) for education, libraries, and museums gradually made the U.S.A. a cultural power. The Library



47e A WWII cartoon (by Bill Mauldin):
"Your happy, free life is over. Tomorrow you start lugging ammunition again."

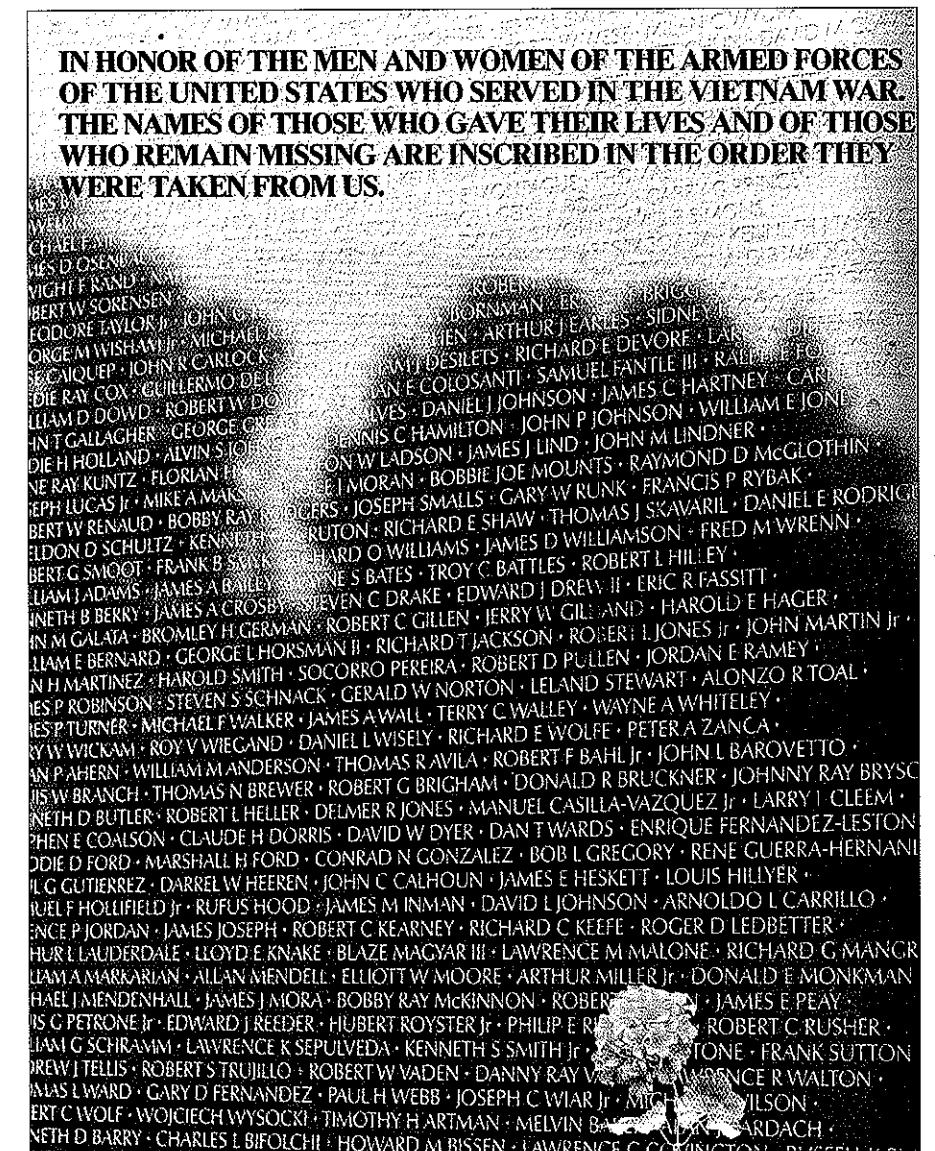
48 THE WARS IN KOREA AND VIETNAM

In the 1950s and in the 1960s the U.S.A. waged two wars, both in the belief that the expansion of communist armed forces into the non-communist areas should be stopped. The general U.S. foreign policy was "containment of communism", because communism was regarded as a threat to the U.S.A. and the West. The Korean war started after North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950 and seized most of its territory. The Americans arrived under the United Nations flag and pushed the forces of the North back, actually deep back into their own territory, so that Communist China thought it necessary to send 200,000 of her own troops to the battlefield and managed to push the U.N. forces (Americans, Australians, British, Turks, etc.) back to the 38th parallel, where the war had started three years before. In 1953 both sides agreed to stop the war there.

In the case of the Vietnam War, again a communist country, this time North Vietnam, was the aggressor. The scenario was the same. Communist Northern forces (the Viet Cong) invaded South Vietnam, which had a treaty of alliance with the U.S.A. Rather than taking the 1938 Munich Agreement approach, that is cancelling the earlier promise to help in case of being attacked, the U.S.A. in 1963 sent Marines and later other troops to fight along the South Vietnamese forces. The war dragged on undecided for several years; the fighting morale of the South was low. The Viet Cong fighters were hard to find: they pretended to be peaceful farmers in the day, and attacked as guerillas in the night. The jungle was their great protection. U.S. planes fought back by destroying crops and the jungle with chemicals. With little headway made in the fighting, the American soldiers became demoralized, and the anti-war protesters in the U.S.A. grew louder. The media questioned the government's policy. Finally a ceasefire was negotiated in 1972 by the Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, at the request of President Nixon. In 1975 South Vietnam was fully taken over by Communist forces. Thousands of South Vietnamese fled the country in small boats, and the U.S. immediately received over 100,000 of them as refugees. Now there are 870,000 of them in the U.S.A.

The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, a wall of polished black granite, 3m tall and 75m long, is located near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. There are inscribed 58,132 names of war casualties, not

in alphabetical order but "in the order they left us". The memorial was designed by an 18-year-old Chinese-American woman, who won the anonymous competition. The WWII Veterans' Memorial was unveiled in the capital only in 2004.



48 Vietnam Veterans' Memorial