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Chapter

1

The Beginnings of Our Nation

The Story Starts...

The story of the United States of America begins almost five hundred years before Christopher Columbus came to America. It begins in the Old World, where for centuries our forefathers lived. It begins in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. It has chapters in Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, and England. The story first begins in the ninth century when Viking warriors sought adventure, conquest, and plunder. The story of the beginnings of America is one of daring explorers. It is a tale of the sacrifice of priests and missionaries. It is a story of how men suffered and struggled and labored in their search for new lands, new markets, and new souls to save. It is a tale of discovery.

Leif Ericson Discovering America, Christian Krohg



The Viking Explorations

Our story starts with the Vikings. These men were marauding seamen from Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. For nearly three centuries, their snake-shaped or dragon-modeled ships raided the coasts of Europe from the British Isles in the north to the shores of Italy in the south and to Constantinople in the east. These pirates killed, burned, robbed, and terrorized wherever they went.



874 A.D. – 1492 A.D.

About the year 874, the Vikings reached Iceland, an island in the North Atlantic ocean on which Irish monks had previously settled. Here the Vikings established a colony. A century later, a Viking, Eric the Red, sailed west from Iceland to Greenland where he founded another colony. The son of Eric the Red, Leif Ericson, left Greenland to return to Norway, where he became a Catholic. Then, at the request of the king, who also had become a Catholic, Leif went back to Greenland as a missionary. On this return voyage, about the year 1000, heavy storms forced Leif off course. Norse sagas tell that he touched the shores of what is now Labrador, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. He may have sailed and explored as far west as the Great Lakes. This land was covered with vines, and Leif called it Vinland. However, he did not establish a permanent settlement there. As a result, this land was forgotten for almost five hundred years.

The Crusades

To the Catholics of Europe, the Holy Land was sacred. It was the land sanctified by Our Blessed Lord Himself. This is where Jesus had been born, had lived, had taught, and had died. All the places and things associated with

874
The Vikings reach
Iceland.

1077
Turks capture
Jerusalem.

1095
Two hundred years
of Crusades begin.

1271-1295
Marco Polo
travels in Asia, as
described in his
famous book.

1453
Turks capture
Constantinople.

1492
Columbus arrives
in the New World,
mistaking it for India.

the life and death of Christ were in the Holy Land: Nazareth, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, the Tomb of Christ, and Calvary.

In 1071, at the Battle of Manzikert, the Turks won a decisive battle over the Eastern Empire. Though the capital of the Eastern Empire at Constantinople would not fall for another four hundred years, the loss of this battle spelled the end for the Eastern Empire. The Turks then moved on and captured the Holy Land. Jerusalem fell to the Turks in 1077. When news reached Europe of the capture of Jerusalem by the Turks, Catholics felt not only great sorrow but also righteous anger.

By the end of the eleventh century, conditions were at their worst. Catholics were denied the right to visit Jerusalem and the other sacred places. When they did go to the Holy Land, they were robbed and beaten. Many were killed. The safety of Constantinople also was threatened. For these reasons, the Eastern emperor, Alexius, appealed for help to Pope Urban II. So it was that in 1095, the pope called for volunteers to drive the Turks from the Holy Land and to recover the places made sacred by Christ.

Common people and knights answered his plea with a cry of “God wills it.” Large bands of devoted men gathered and traveled by land and sea eastward to rescue the Holy Land. These expeditions were called the Crusades. Those who took part in them were known as Crusaders. For two hundred years, eight major Crusades were organized. However, of all these, only the First Crusade was truly successful. Jerusalem was captured and a Christian kingdom was set up. Later, however, the Muslims again captured the Holy Land. All further efforts to regain the Christian kingdom failed. The Crusades ended in defeat.

The Results of the Crusades

Although their original purpose was never gained, the Crusades did much to awaken the interest of Europe in the Holy Land and the East. Mostly, the Crusades proved to Europeans the value of trade with the Orient. The returning Crusaders produced in the people of Europe an intense interest in the products of the East and the desire for those products. Among the Eastern goods were pepper, spices, sugar, coffee, tea, drugs, perfumes, gems, pearls, rugs, and silks from the East. The desire to obtain these items stimulated trade and



Taking of Jerusalem by the Crusaders, by Emile Signol

commerce. Merchants and traders began to import these goods in large quantities. European trade flourished.

The port cities of Genoa and Venice in Italy were well located. They became the shipping and distributing centers for trade between the East and northern and central Europe. As a result, both of these cities grew rich and independent. All Europe became anxious to share in the trade that contributed to the wealth and independence of these two great cities.

The Crusades also created a new interest in geography and travel. The thrilling tales of adventure told by the Crusaders and the daring exploits of the traders made people think about the Far East. More and more interest was focused on finding new trade routes to the fabulous lands of the East.

After the invention of the compass and the astrolabe, sea captains were able to find their way on the high seas. The compass told them in what direction to steer their ship. The astrolabe enabled them to tell the longitude of the ship and its approximate distance from land. These were great advantages. They gave the sailors ability to sail uncharted seas. Thus, the way was prepared for the discovery of America.

Spot Check

1. Who were the Vikings?
2. What were the Crusades?
3. Which pope called the First Crusade?
4. Name two results of the Crusades.



Chapter

7

Disputes and Quarrels with England



King George III

NEW TENSIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND HER COLONIES

Taxes and More Taxes

After the French soldiers were finally driven from America in 1763, unrest among the colonists increased. There was constant quarreling between England and her colonies in America. King George III and the English Parliament had little sympathy for the colonists. England was faced with heavy debts because of the wars with France, especially the French and Indian War. England had added vast new territories in India and America. Thus, England was confronted with two great problems. First, the war debt had to be paid, and, second, the British Empire had to be more firmly united. The British taxpayers were already groaning under the burden of taxes in England. They believed that financial help should come from the colonies.

The merchants and manufacturers in the English Parliament believed, like most of the Europeans of the time, that colonies should benefit the mother country. However, the colonists believed that colonies should be governed for their own benefit. It was this difference of opinion that was chiefly responsible for the War of Independence.

What the colonists thought did not matter to England. Thus, in the year following the treaty of 1763, King George



Boston Tea Party, W.D. Cooper

III and his ministers decided upon a new policy in dealing with the American colonies. Their new policy included three measures. These measures were: a strict enforcement of the Navigation Laws; the direct taxation of the colonies by acts of Parliament; and the quartering of soldiers in the colonies.

Spot Check

1. What did England think was the role of the colonies?
2. Name the three measures that were part of King George III's new policy towards the colonies.

THE NAVIGATION LAWS

Attitude of the Colonists

The Navigation Laws had been passed into law a hundred years earlier, but had not been enforced. By enforcing the Laws, England had two goals. First, England hoped to compel the colonies to share in the payment of her war debts. Second, England wanted to protect her shipping industry from foreign competition.

1763 A.D. – 1774 A.D.

1763

England sets out to enforce Navigation Laws.

1765

Stamp Act passed.

1766

"Declaration Act" repeals Stamp Act but maintains England's right to tax colonies.

1767

Townshend Acts passed to tax imported goods.

1770

Boston Massacre.

1773

Boston Tea Party.

1774

Intolerable Acts passed; First Continental Congress meets.

The Navigation Laws that were passed in 1660 and 1663 contained two important provisions. First, all colonial goods were to be carried on English or colonial ships which must pass through English ports and pay a tax. Second, the colonies were prohibited from manufacturing goods that were already being produced in England. This forced the colonists to buy goods from England.

Though these laws had been passed a century earlier, it was not until 1763 that efforts were made to enforce them. Meanwhile, all kinds of abuses had crept in. Customs officials in the colonies actually helped merchants to escape paying port duties. Smuggling was common. In fact, John Hancock of Boston, who became the first governor of the state of Massachusetts, was a noted smuggler. The colonies ignored the requirements of the Navigation Laws. They often traded directly with the

Spanish West Indies and with other foreign ports. They manufactured what they wanted despite the Navigation Laws. The colonists did not protest as long as the laws were not strictly enforced.

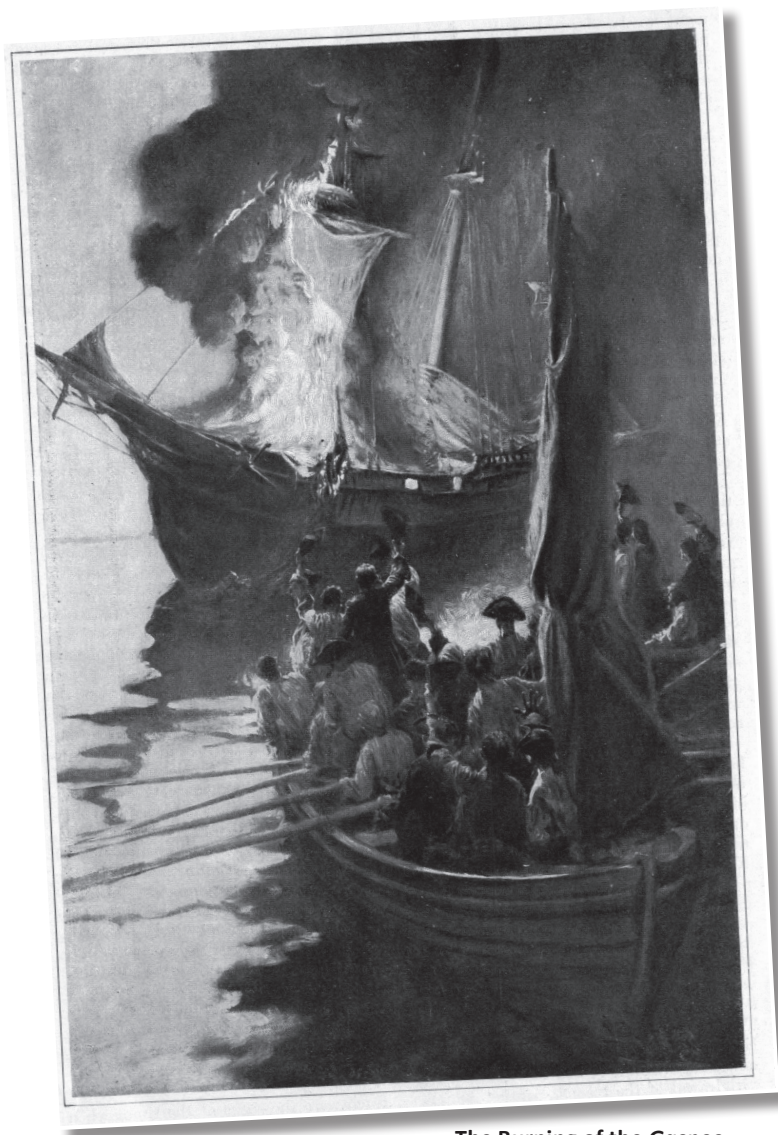
Meanwhile, in England, Parliament's decision to enforce the Navigation Laws was very popular. It meant better business conditions in England. It meant an increase of manufacturing and increased sales for the English merchants. It meant that all foreign trade would be centered in England. Naturally, the English merchants and manufacturers welcomed this. In addition to these benefits, the English people were pleased because a strict collection of duties might mean lower taxes for them.

A Source of Resentment

However, the colonists felt differently. When the plan to enforce the Navigation Laws became known, it awakened bitter opposition in the colonies. To the colonial merchants, the enforcement could seriously injure their business. To the colonial manufacturer, it meant financial ruin. To the people of the colonies in general, it meant a higher cost of living. No longer able to obtain manufactured items locally, they would need to import them from England. Protest meetings were held in all the important colonial cities. The opposition in commercial New England was strongest. There, Samuel Adams and John Hancock led the fight against the Navigation Laws. They knew the feelings of the people and worked diligently to urge the colonists to resist. In England, Benjamin Franklin acted as an informal ambassador of the American people. He tried to convince the English government that its plan to enforce the Navigation Laws would cause trouble with the colonies. However, King George III had chosen ministers willing to carry out his plan. There was strong support for the plan in Parliament. Thus, in spite of every warning, the king was determined to put his plan into action.

New Methods of Enforcement

England intended to enforce the Navigation Laws in two ways. First, she sent a fleet to patrol the American coast and seize smugglers. However, England's blockading fleet found it impossible to stop smuggling completely. The fleet simply could not watch the one thousand miles of colonial coastline. The colonists, believing the Navigation Laws unfair, determined to ignore them. Angry feelings arose between the colonists and the English coast patrol. At Providence, Rhode Island, a group of colonists became enraged at

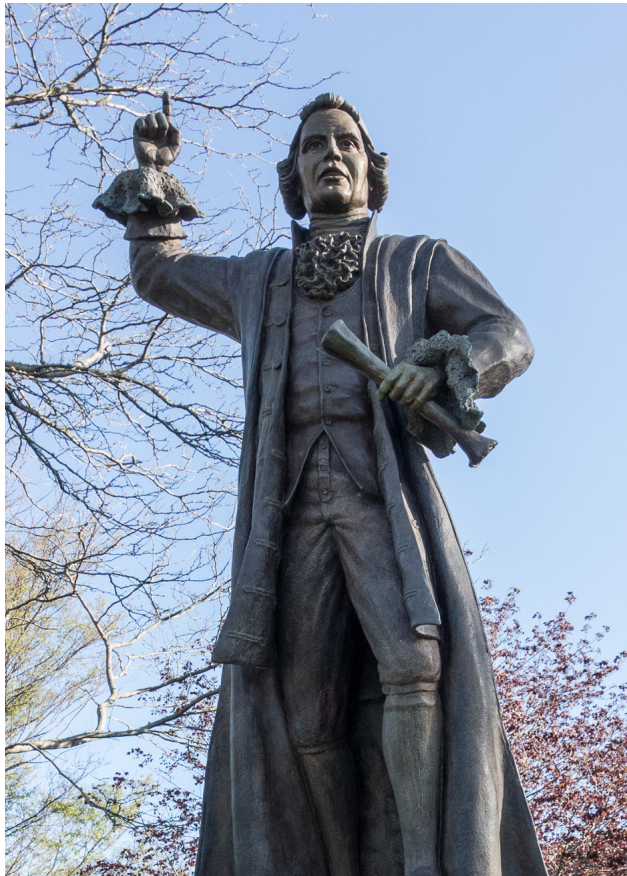


The Burning of the Gaspee

the heavy-handed manner of the captain of the *Gaspee*, an English boat sent to guard Narragansett Bay. To show their resentment, they boarded the ship at night and burned it. This incident clearly revealed the defiant mood of the colonists. It plainly bore out the truth of Benjamin Franklin's warning to King George.

The second way to enforce the Navigation Laws was through "Writs of Assistance." These writs were actually blank search warrants that allowed customs officers to enter any house or board any ship to search for smuggled goods. They were not like today's search warrants, for they did not specify the particular place to be searched or what kind of goods the officer expected to find. The use of these unfair warrants naturally aroused sharp resentment in the colonies.

James Otis of Boston, a prosecuting attorney in the king's service, resigned his office to protest the "Writs of Assistance." He held that these warrants broke English law and that Parliament could not make them legal. Otis eloquently urged the colonists to demand their rights. He declared, "every man's house is his castle," and opposed British interference with personal liberty. Commenting on Otis' speech, John Adams said that "then and there, the child Independence was born."



James Otis

Spot Check

1. What were the two key provisions of the Navigation Laws?
2. What abuses were caused by the lack of the enforcement of the Navigation Laws in the colonies?
3. Why was the enforcement of the Navigation Laws popular in England?
4. Who acted as an informal ambassador of the American people to England?
5. What were the two methods the British government used to enforce the Navigation Laws?
6. What legal reason did James Otis of Boston give for opposing the writs of assistance?

THE STAMP ACT

Taxation without Representation

The second part of King George's policy in dealing with the American Colonies was to have Parliament directly tax the colonies. He wanted the colonies to help pay the expenses of the British Empire. However, the idea of direct taxation was even more hateful to the colonists than the Navigation Laws. The colonial leaders were incensed. They argued that since there were no American representatives in Parliament, Parliament had no authority to tax the colonies. The colonies were willing to pay part of the cost of the war against France, but refused to pay any taxes except those levied by their own legislators.

In general, the English people had no sympathy for the colonists' argument against "taxation without representation." There were many people in England who had no voice in the election of Parliament. Yet Parliament taxed them without representation. In America, too, there were people who supported the king. They believed that his colonial policy did not violate the rights of the colonists as Englishmen. However, leaders of the Whig party in England, William Pitt, Edmund Burke, and Charles Fox, opposed the king's party in Parliament. These men championed the cause of the colonists.

Passage of the Stamp Act

The Stamp Act was England's first attempt at direct taxation. In 1765, the British ministers passed this act to obtain new income for the English government.

It required the colonists to place stamps on all legal documents such as deeds, mortgages, and wills. Stamps were required on newspapers, almanacs, and other publications. The stamps were not very expensive. Their cost ranged from one cent to fifty dollars. However, most stamps cost from one cent to twenty-five cents. Agents appointed by the government sold the stamps.

The English government insisted that the Stamp Act would cause little hardship in the American Colonies. However, the colonists looked upon the Act as unjust and unfair. They objected to the Act, not because it was oppressive, but because it was a tax levied on them by a Parliament in which they had no representatives. They declared that a Parliament in England, in which there was not one member from the colonies, did not represent them.

Resistance to the Stamp Act

Strong opposition followed. Pamphlets appeared, denouncing the action of King George III and Parliament. In Virginia, Patrick Henry, a young

lawyer and a new member of the House of Burgesses, attacked the Stamp Act in a forceful speech in which he set forth the reasons for colonial opposition. In fiery eloquence, he warned the king against tyranny. He said, "Caesar had his Brutus; Charles the First, his Cromwell; and George the Third..." Before he could complete the sentence, some of the members of the House of Burgesses shouted, "Treason! Treason!" (Brutus killed Caesar and Cromwell killed Charles, so Patrick Henry appeared to be hinting that someone should kill King George.) Patrick Henry finished by saying, "and George the Third may profit by their examples. If this be treason, make the most of it."

Many other colonial leaders opposed the Stamp Act. Samuel Adams led the protest in Massachusetts. James Otis declared that "taxation without representation is tyranny." Otis published an important pamphlet in which he wrote that "only a parliament composed of representatives from all parts of the British Empire could rightfully regulate trade and levy taxes for imperial purposes." All through the colonies, the agents who sold and distributed the stamps became figures of scorn.

There was violent rioting in New York, Pennsylvania, and New England.

The Stamp Act Congress

At the suggestion of James Otis, the Stamp Act Congress was held in New York in October 1765. Twenty-seven representatives from nine of the colonies attended. It drew up a declaration stating that only their own colonial assemblies could levy taxes on the colonists, not Parliament. Protests were sent to the king and Parliament asking for the immediate repeal of the Stamp Act. The Stamp Act Congress marks the first united action of the colonies against England.

When the stamps were placed on sale, the colonists refused to buy them. In some cases, the stamps were seized and destroyed. In New York, a mob burned the governor in effigy and defied the sale



Patrick Henry's "If this be treason, make the most of it!"
Speech Against the Stamp Act of 1765

so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but, as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Spot Check

1. What were the Townshend Acts?
2. How did the colonies react to the Townshend Acts?
3. What was the Boston Massacre?
4. Why did Parliament insist on keeping the tea tax?
5. What was the Boston Tea Party?
6. What were the five decrees of the Intolerable Acts?
7. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death"?

THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

United Action

A meeting of colonial representatives was held in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774. This was the First Continental Congress. All the colonies except Georgia sent delegates to the meeting. Among the members were the most influential men of the colonies: Samuel and John Adams from Massachusetts, John Jay from New York, and Patrick Henry and George Washington from Virginia. The Congress represented the majority colonial opinion and was very qualified to present the views of the colonies to England.

The Congress issued a Declaration of Rights and Grievances. The members demanded the right to levy all taxes and petitioned the king to relieve their wrongs. They further agreed that the colonies would *buy no goods* from England and would *send no goods* to her until the laws they resented had been repealed. Before adjourning, the Congress resolved to meet again in May 1775, to receive the reply of the king. However, the king refused to accept the petition. Parliament refused to repeal the laws against the colonies.

Before the Continental Congress met again, leaders in Massachusetts were asking the towns to collect arms and ammunition, and to see that their militia was well trained. Other colonies followed the example of Massachusetts. On his return from the First Continental Congress, Patrick Henry urged Virginia to prepare for war. Most of the colonists were beginning to think of themselves as Americans rather than as Englishmen. They were beginning to hope for an independent America. The patriots declared that armed conflict was the only course to follow against tyranny. Before the Second Continental Congress met, war had already begun. England drove the colonies to armed resistance in order to gain their independence.

Spot Check

1. When and where was the First Continental Congress held?
2. What did the First Continental Congress demand in the Declaration of Rights and Grievances?

Chapter Review

1. What were the Navigation Laws?
2. Why did England decide to enforce the Navigation Laws when they had not been enforced for a hundred years?
3. What effect would enforcement of the Navigation Laws have had on American merchants and manufacturers?
4. What were the "Writs of Assistance"?
5. On what ground did the colonists oppose the Stamp Act?
6. What was most important about the Stamp Act Congress?
7. What were the provisions of the "Intolerable Acts"?
8. When and where was the First Continental Congress held?
9. Who was Samuel Adams?
10. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death"?

Chapter

26

America in World War II



Pope Pius XI, who was pope from 1922 until 1939, opposed the Nazis.



Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler became the leader of the National Socialist Party (the Nazis) in Germany long before World War II began. Even then, he planned to conquer the whole world. The Treaty of Versailles had crushed Germany's pride and caused an economic depression. Hitler promised the German people to restore the greatness of Germany. He promised to restore its prosperity and power. Germany readily responded to Hitler's promises. He quickly became popular. Sadly, he was an evil, cruel, ruthless man who led the world to the edge of destruction.

In 1933, Germany elected Hitler chancellor of Germany. As soon as he gained control of the government, he set up a military dictatorship. As dictator, Hitler began to build the world's strongest war machine. He updated his army and built up his air force and navy. He also organized the German youth. He wanted to fill their impressionable minds with his beliefs so that his policies would be put into action for years to come.

Next, Hitler allied himself with Benito Mussolini, the dictator of Italy. This alliance came to be known as the Rome-Berlin Axis, or more simply "the Axis Powers." At this time, Japan was seeking to expand its power in Asia. Japan entered into an understanding with the Axis nations. Thus, by the end of 1940, these three nations, motivated by desire for more power, more land and raw materials, had formed a strong and menacing alliance. This gave these nations a feeling of strength that made their foreign policy much bolder.

In 1938, Hitler's huge war machine began to move. In that year, it conquered Austria. Then in 1939, he seized Czechoslovakia. Meanwhile,



Left: U.S. Troops Landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day.
 Right: Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima, Joe Rosenthal.
 Background: Stars on the Freedom Wall at the World War II Memorial.

Mussolini conquered Ethiopia and Albania. France and Britain reluctantly accepted Hitler's conquests in return for assurances that he did not conquer any more territory. This was a grave mistake as it emboldened Hitler to conquer more.

Hitler then signed a secret non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union's brutal and malevolent dictator, Josef Stalin. On September 1, Hitler attacked Poland. England and France had promised Poland they would defend her if she were attacked. Though unprepared for war against the Nazi war machine, England and France declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939. Meanwhile, Hitler and Stalin marched into Poland. They divided it between them. The Western allies were able to offer no more than token aid to Poland. The conquest of Poland took several months because of the brave resistance of the Poles. However, they did not have the training and equipment of the German army.

After conquering Poland, Hitler's troops suddenly overran Denmark in April 1940. Within a month, they subdued Norway. On May 10, the German army invaded the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. In less

1933 A.D. – 1945 A.D.

1933

Hitler becomes chancellor and then dictator in Germany.

September 1939

England and France declare war on Hitler.

July-October 1940

Battle of Britain.

December 1941

Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor.

June 1942

Battle of Midway.

May 1943

Axis forces surrender in North Africa.

June 1944

"D-Day"; Allied troops invade France.

May 1945

Germany surrenders.

August 1945

Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

September 1945

Official surrender of Japan.

than a month, Hitler's forces had crushed France and driven the British Expeditionary Force off the continent.

Hitler knew his navy could not defeat the British navy. Germany had lost too many ships fighting Norway. Instead, Hitler began a massive air attack on England that he hoped would make England surrender. However, the new leader of Great Britain was Winston Churchill. He told his people that they would fight on the beaches and in the hills. They would never surrender. He inspired the English to fight. At the start of the war, Germany's air force was better than the British Air Force. However, Hitler underestimated the daring of British pilots. His attempt to force Britain to surrender was unsuccessful. This air conflict came to be known as the Battle of Britain. It lasted from July 10 until October 31, 1940. It is considered a turning point in the war.

Having failed to conquer Britain, Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. He needed the oil that was in the Soviet Union. Despite his secret peace treaty signed two years earlier, Hitler's army went storming into the Soviet Union on the pretense of destroying Communism. The invasion began June 22, 1941. Joseph Stalin and his generals were taken by complete surprise.

Suddenly Joseph Stalin, a Communist dictator every bit as bad as Hitler, became an ally of Britain and the United States. The United States pledged material to aid the Soviets to fight Germany. Great Britain and the Soviets signed a treaty of mutual aid. In this treaty, each promised not to conclude a separate peace with Germany. Thus, they would all be allies until the end of the war. Many Christians hated the idea of aiding Communism or being allied with it. However, Hitler was a more immediate threat to Europe. Now that Hitler had attacked the Communists in the Soviet Union, the Soviets were needed to win the war. Winston Churchill, England's great prime minister, and one of the greatest anti-Communists of the century, summed up the attitude of most people. Churchill said, "If Hitler invaded Hell, I would make at least a favorable reference to the devil in the House of Commons."

The early stages of the German-Russian war looked like another Hitler victory. For five months, the Germans advanced eastward. They drove the Russian army back to Moscow. They occupied the Baltic States. Finally, they besieged Leningrad. In the south, they overran most of Ukraine and the Crimean Peninsula. However, with the coming of winter, the tide turned. The German army was forced onto the defensive along most of the front. The Russians took the offensive and kept it throughout the winter.



Winston Churchill

Spot Check

1. What does "Nazi" mean?
2. Which nations formed the Axis Powers?
3. What was the Battle of Britain?
4. Why did Britain and the United States become an ally with the Soviet Union?

The United States Declares War

During this time, the United States had begun to mobilize her resources. The Lend-Lease Act was in operation. The national draft was in high gear. Our ships were being sunk, and an undeclared naval war was going on. America was rapidly headed for open war with the Axis.

On a quiet Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the residents of the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii were suddenly awakened by the sounds of Japanese planes dropping bombs. The surprise was complete. The American fleet was lined up at the dock. Several battleships and destroyers were sunk. Many others were put out of action. Over 2,300 American soldiers were



Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, John Hamilton

killed and more than 1,200 were wounded. It was the worst attack on American soil until the 9/11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

The next day, Congress declared war on Japan. On December 11, Germany and Italy retaliated by declaring war on the U.S. The same day, Congress declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Germany and Italy.

The First Year of War in the Pacific

The first months after Pearl Harbor were marked by continued Japanese victories. At Pearl Harbor, they had succeeded in sinking or disabling twenty-one ships, of which eight were battleships. This disaster temporarily crippled our Pacific fleet. More losses followed. The Japanese took Guam on December 10. Wake Island fell on December 23. On January 2, 1942, Manila in the Philippines fell to Japan. The Bataan Peninsula held out for three more months. Finally, the island fortress of Corregidor, the last stronghold, was forced to surrender in early May.

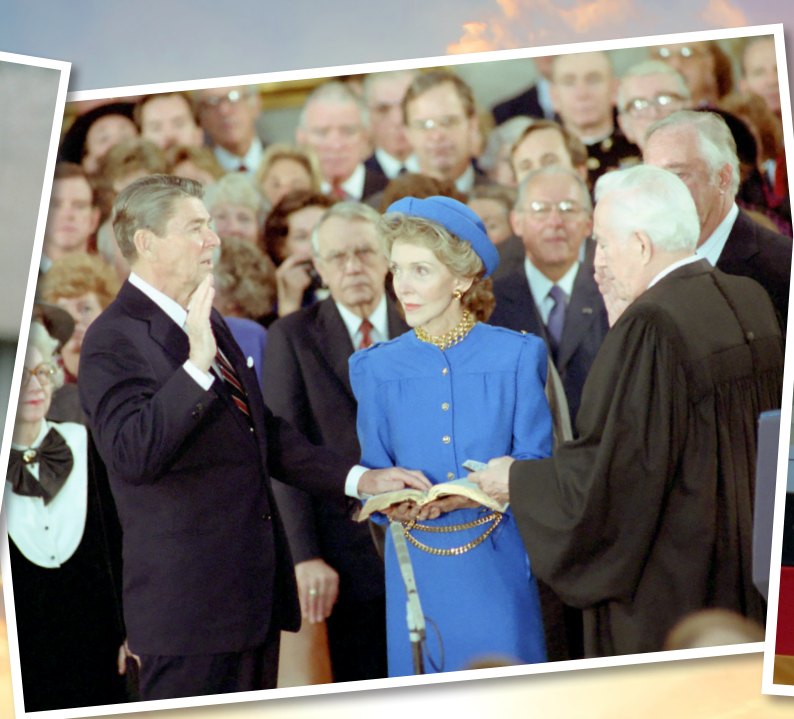
In the meantime, England lost to Japan Hong Kong, the Malay Peninsula, and most of Burma in Southeast Asia. The Japanese also took most of the islands of the Dutch East Indies, one of the richest storehouses of raw materials in the world. With this victory, the Japanese had enough rubber, tin, and oil to wage a long war.

The conquest of the East Indies by Japan posed a serious threat to Australia and New Zealand. These were the last valuable bases against Japan. The United States recognized this danger. The U.S. did everything possible to keep the shipping lanes open to the land “down under.”

The first setback for Japanese forces came in May 1942. American naval and air forces met the Japanese fleet in the Coral Sea, not far off the coast of Australia. During four days of intense fighting, our forces sank seven Japanese warships, including a small carrier and several transports. American losses were the carrier *Lexington* and two other vessels. The Allies had finally stopped the Japanese advance south towards Australia.

Early in June, in the northern Pacific near the coast of Alaska, the Japanese took two of the Aleutian Islands. The invasion followed an air attack on Dutch Harbor, the naval base in Alaska. This was the closest to the mainland the Japanese enemy reached during the war.

In June, a strong Japanese naval force moved toward Hawaii. They planned to seize Midway Island and use it as a base for further attacks. Although the Japanese had an advantage in battleships and aircraft carriers, American naval code breakers had discovered the coming attack. Three American aircraft carriers sailed in an attempt to catch the Japanese fleet by surprise. The Battle of Midway was fiercely fought from June 4 to June 7. The United States lost the USS *Yorktown* in the battle.



Chapter 31

Morning in America: The Reagan Presidency and the Fall of the Soviet Union



Ronald Reagan as the host of General Electric Theater

The Election of 1980

In 1980, the Republicans chose Ronald Reagan to be their candidate for president. He had been born in Tampico, Illinois, on February 6, 1911. Starting in 1937, he appeared in many films. One of his best roles was in the film *Knute Rockne, All American*. In that film, Reagan played the part of George “The Gipper” Gipp. His fans and supporters would affectionately call Reagan “the Gipper” for the rest of his life. His “big break” came in the film *King’s Row*. This was a very good film and Reagan was very good in it. However, the film was made as World War II was breaking out. Like many film stars, Reagan enlisted in the armed forces. During the war, he was assigned to make films for the army. His unit made several hundred films.

Following the war, Ronald Reagan continued his career in films. However, he never received roles as good as those he had before the war. He made the move to the new medium of television. He had great success as the host of *General Electric Theatre*, a weekly program. During this time, he testified before the House Committee investigating Communism. For his entire life, Reagan was a dedicated anti-Communist. During this time, he gave a number of speeches for General Electric. He spoke in favor of business and against big, expensive government.



Left: Ronald and Nancy Reagan during Inaugural Parade, 1981.
Center: Reagan Sworn in for a Second Term. **Right:** Reagan Giving "Tear Down This Wall" Speech in Berlin, Germany

When he was a young man, Reagan had admired Franklin Roosevelt. In fact, he was a member of the Democratic Party until 1962. However, he came to realize that Roosevelt's policies hurt the economy and destroyed individual responsibility. In 1964, Reagan campaigned for Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. On October 27, 1964, Reagan gave a speech that forever changed his life. It was known as the "Time for Choosing" speech. In it, he said that America had come to a time when it must choose between big government and the Democrats, or small government and the Republicans. The speech put Reagan on the political map.

In 1966, Reagan ran for governor of California. He was elected and then re-elected in 1970. During his terms as governor, he became known as one of the leading conservatives in the nation. Already known for being a strong anti-Communist, he now became known for his support of Christian moral values.

In 1976, Reagan ran for the Republican nomination for president against Gerald Ford. However, Ford narrowly defeated him. Jimmy Carter defeated Ford in the general election.

1978 A.D. – 1991 A.D.

1978

Karol Wojtyla becomes Pope John Paul II.

1980

Reagan elected president. Solidarity movement organized.

1981

Assassination attempt on Reagan. Solidarity calls for a vote on Polish government.

1985

Gorbachev becomes head of Soviet Union. New wave of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

1986

Iran-Contra Affair. Gorbachev introduces *perestroika* and *glasnost*.

1990

Fall of the Berlin Wall.

1991

All Eastern Europe free; Russian Republic declares independence.



The Space Shuttle *Challenger* successfully lifts off on April 4, 1983.

In 1980, Reagan again sought the Republican nomination for president. This time George H.W. Bush challenged him. Reagan used the solid base of supporters that he had established in 1976. He also had the active support of traditional Christians. Thus, Reagan received the nomination. He named George Bush as his running mate.

In the general election, Ronald Reagan faced Jimmy Carter. Carter had been weakened by a poor economy and the weakness of America overseas. He had been weakened also by a serious challenge in his own party. Edward Kennedy had entered the Democratic primary. Kennedy argued that Carter had not provided the leadership the nation needed. As a result, Reagan easily won the national election. Reagan claimed that he had a popular mandate from the people. They wanted him to cut taxes and cut spending. They wanted America to oppose Communism. They wanted to see America return to her Christian roots and Christian values.

REAGAN'S DOMESTIC POLICIES

Economic Policy: Reaganomics

When Reagan became president, the nation faced many economic problems. One of the worst was high unemployment. He wanted to do something to speed up the economy and put people back to work. He believed that the best way to do this was to cut taxes. This allowed more money to stay in private business. It would help the economy to grow. As the economy grew, government income from taxation would also increase. Reagan believed this would allow the government to meet its demands without damaging the economy. The theory was known as "Supply Side Economics" because it placed more control in the hands of suppliers of goods.

His critics labeled his concepts "Reaganomics." They did not understand that these were the very principles that had made America great.

For the first two years of Reagan's presidency, the economy remained sluggish. Unemployment and interest rates stayed high until 1983. However, after that, the economy began to grow. The economy was so strong in 1984 that it was a major factor in Reagan's landslide re-election. The Reagan years were the longest period of constant economic growth since World War II. This was the result of lower taxes and less government regulation.

Reagan is Shot

On March 30, 1981, as Reagan was leaving a Washington, D.C. hotel, a crazy man shot him. He was rushed to the hospital. Reagan's courage and good humor were never more on display than as he lay on the operating table. He turned to his doctors and said that he hoped that some of them were Republicans. The surgeon replied, "Today, Mr. President, we are all Republicans." Later, when his wife Nancy came to visit him in the hospital, he told her that he "forgot to duck." Two weeks later, he was back at work.

Triumph and Tragedy in Space

In April 1981, the space shuttle *Columbia* completed 36 orbits of the earth and landed safely in California at an Air Force base. *Columbia* was the world's first reusable space ship. NASA hoped that *Columbia* and the other shuttles could be used to put satellites in space. They hoped that the space shuttle program could actually make a profit.

Then on January 28, 1986, tragedy struck. After twenty-four shuttle launches, the shuttle *Challenger* lifted off from Florida. On board were seven men and women. As millions watched on television, the shuttle exploded. Reagan went on television to console a grieving nation. He said that America would continue to explore space. Of the astronauts, he said, "We will never forget them nor the last time we saw them this morning as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God'."

Spot Check

1. What was the "Time for Choosing" Speech?
2. What were Ronald Reagan's chief political beliefs?



the Communists. During his pontificate, he would visit almost every nation on the planet. But his heart never left Poland. The Holy Father warned the Soviets that if they invaded, he would return to Poland and personally stand before the Soviet tanks!

In the face of Western opposition and the courage of the Holy Father, the Soviets backed down. They did not invade. However, they did push the Polish government to take steps against the union. The next year, Solidarity was declared illegal. Although weakened, Solidarity was not ended by this action. The movement went underground waiting for the day that it could again emerge. Reagan directed that money be provided to the organization to help it survive. Poland remained a source of concern to the Soviets.

The Invasion of Grenada

In addition to aid, Reagan was also willing to use the military against Communist regimes. In 1979, Communists had seized the small Caribbean island

of Grenada. The regime quickly became friendly with Cuba and the Soviets. The Communists began the construction of a very large airport. It appeared that the Cubans and Soviets hoped to establish an air base on Grenada. The people of Grenada and the surrounding islands asked the United States for help. When an American medical school on the island became threatened, Reagan ordered Marines to seize the island. The surprise attack was successful. The Cubans were ousted and a friendly government was established. Then the American forces withdrew.

Central America

When Reagan came into office, Soviet weapons were pouring into Nicaragua in Central America. From there, the weapons went to Communist rebels in El Salvador. Reagan asked Congress for aid for the government of El Salvador to resist these rebels. Despite some opposition to his plan, President Reagan was able to obtain the aid. He also sent a small number of military advisors to help train and plan the war effort.

In Nicaragua, a small group of freedom fighters had begun armed resistance to the Communist government. The Communists were called Sandinistas. In accord with the Reagan Doctrine, the United States began to recruit and arm the freedom fighters. They were called the Contras. At first, the goal was just to stop the flow of arms to El Salvador. However, the Contras made it clear that they planned to overthrow the Sandinistas. By 1985, the Contras were a strong force. They were able to inflict major damage on the Sandinistas.

The Election of 1984

When Reagan accepted the Republican nomination for president in 1984, he proclaimed that it was “morning again in America.” The Democrats ran Walter Mondale. Mondale tried to use Reagan’s age against him in the election. However, Reagan was one of the finest speakers ever to be president. During his second debate with Mondale, he said that he would not make age an issue in the campaign. He said, “I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent’s youth and inexperience.” Everyone laughed, including Mondale. Reagan won in a landslide. Only Minnesota, Mondale’s home state, voted for him.

The Iran-Contra Affair

Throughout this period, President Reagan had trouble with the Democrats who controlled Congress. Congress repeatedly cut off aid to the Contras, then

renewed aid later on. At one point, Congress passed the “Boland Amendment.” This prohibited the president from using American funds to aid the Contras. Reagan believed that the Boland Amendment was unconstitutional since it restricted the president’s power to act freely in foreign affairs. Reagan had a good case that the Boland Amendment was unconstitutional and had no force of law. However, he failed to make the case very strongly. Despite the restriction, Reagan wanted to aid the Contras.

Thus, foreign nations were approached and asked to give money to the Contras. Members of the president’s staff developed the idea of secretly selling arms to Iran, which was at war with Iraq. Neither country was particularly friendly with the United States. However, the profits of the sale would be used to support the Contras. In 1986, this deal was discovered. This episode weakened his administration.

Spot Check

1. What was the “Reagan Doctrine”? How did it differ from the policies of previous presidents?
2. What was Solidarity?
3. Who was Lech Walesa?
4. Why did the U.S. invade Grenada?
5. Who were the “Contras”?
6. What was the Boland Amendment? Why did Reagan believe it was unconstitutional?



Walter Mondale, 1984

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE COLD WAR

A New Kind of Soviet leader

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became the head of the Soviet Union. At first, he took the standard Communist approach to things. Massive reinforcements were sent into Afghanistan in an attempt to end the war quickly. It was the bloodiest year of the entire war. The Soviets very nearly destroyed the resistance. However, they failed. The war in Afghanistan had left the Soviet Union exhausted. It was clear that a change in policy was needed.

In 1986, Soviet President Gorbachev began a series of reforms in an attempt to strengthen the Soviet Union. His first reform was called “perestroika.” This Russian word means “restructuring.” Gorbachev hoped



Chapter

32

America Enters the New Millennium



George H. W. Bush's Inauguration

PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

The Election of 1988

The presidential election of 1988 pitted Republican George Herbert Walker (H.W.) Bush against Democrat Michael Dukakis. Bush ran as the natural successor to Ronald Reagan. Many people wished that Reagan could run for a third term, so they saw Bush as the closest they could get. At the 1988 Republican National Convention, Bush delivered what was known as the “thousand points of light” speech. In the speech, he described his vision of America. He supported prayer in schools, capital punishment, and gun rights. He also said he opposed abortion. In a famous phrase, he promised no tax increases when he said, “Read my lips, no new taxes.” On election night, Bush received 53.4% of the votes to Dukakis’ 45.6%. Bush became the forty-first president.



*Montage of America: Left - New York City;
Center - Statue of Liberty; Right - Golden Gate Bridge, CA*

Bush's Economic Policy

After struggling with Congress, Bush was forced by the Democrats, who were in the majority, to raise taxes. As a result, many Republicans felt betrayed. They recalled Bush's campaign promise of "no new taxes." Bush accepted the Democrats' demands for higher taxes and more spending. This put him on bad terms with other Republicans. As a result, his popularity sharply decreased. His agreement with the Democrats in Congress proved to be a turning point in his presidency. His popularity among Republican voters never fully returned.

The Invasion of Panama

In the early 1980s, Manuel Noriega, a Panamanian general, became the dictator of Panama. In the beginning, he supported American efforts against the Communists in Nicaragua. However, before long, he began to deal in drugs. He also became friendly with Cuba. Over time, his regime became more oppressive. He beat and murdered those who opposed him. At that time, President Reagan had tried to remove him from power. Reagan imposed economic sanctions on Panama. Reagan also sent more than two thousand U.S.

1988 A.D. – 2008 A.D.

1988

George H. W. Bush
elected president.

1991

Persian Gulf War.

1992

U.S. intervention in
Panama. Bill Clinton
elected president.

1993

U.S. ratifies NAFTA.
World Trade Center
bombed.

1994

House of
Representatives
votes to impeach
Clinton.

2000

George W. Bush
elected president
in a close, long-
contested election.

2001

9/11 attacks. War
begins in Afghanistan.

2003

U.S. invades Iraq.

2005

Hurricane Katrina.

2008

Barack Obama
elected president.

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

ARTICLE I

Sec. I. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Sec II. 1. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States, and the elector in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature.

2. No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

3. Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons. The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each State shall have at least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

4. When vacancies happen in the representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

5. The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Sec. III. 1. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

2. Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one-third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.