

中央民族大学统筹支持一流大学和一流学科建设过渡性经费资助

美国

文化与电影



洪娜 张建青 李佳 编著

*American Culture
and Movies*



中央民族大学出版社
China Minzu University Press

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Unit One History

Pre-reading Activities

Answer the following questions before you read this text.

1. How much do you know about Early and Colonial America?
2. What is a frontier? What role does American frontier play in shaping traditional American values?
3. Where and when was the first successful English colony founded?

TEXT A The Age of Early and Colonial America

Early America

The first Americans crossed the land bridge from Asia and were believed to have stayed in what is now **Alaska** for thousands of years. They then moved south into the land that was to become the United States. They settled along the Pacific Ocean in the Northwest, in the mountains and deserts of the Southwest, and along the Mississippi River in the Middle West.

These early groups are known as **Hohokam, Adenans, Hopewellians, and Anasazi**. They built villages and grew crops. Some built **mounds** of earth in the shapes of **pyramids**, birds, or serpents. Their life **was closely tied to** the land, and their society was **clan-oriented** and **communal**. Elements of the natural world **played an essential part in** their spiritual beliefs. Their culture was **primarily** oral, although some developed a type of **hieroglyphics** to preserve certain texts. **Evidence** shows that there was a good deal of trade among the groups but also that some of their relations were **hostile**.

For reasons not yet completely understood, these early groups disappeared over time and were replaced by other groups of Native Americans, including **Hopi**

and **Zuni**, who **flourished**. By the time Europeans reached what is now the United States, about two million native people, maybe more, lived here.

It would be almost 500 more years before other Europeans reached North America and another 100 years after that before **permanent settlements** were established. The first explorers were searching for a sea passage to Asia. Others—**chiefly** British, Dutch, French, and Spanish—came later to claim the lands and riches of what they called the “New World.”

The first and most famous of these explorers was **Christopher Columbus of Genoa**. His trips were **financed** by Queen Isabella of Spain. Columbus landed on islands in **the Caribbean Sea** in 1492, but he never saw the mainland of the future United States. **John Cabot of Venice** came five years later on a **mission** for the king of England. His journey was quickly forgotten, but it provided the basis for British claims to North America.

The 1500s were the age of Spanish exploration in the Americas. **Juan Ponce de León** landed in what is now Florida in 1513. **Hernando De Soto** reached Florida in 1539 and continued as far as the Mississippi River. In 1540, **Francisco Vázquez de Coronado set out** north from Mexico, which Spain had conquered in 1522, in search of the **mythical Seven Cities of Cibola**. He never found them, but his travels took him as far as **the Grand Canyon** in Arizona, as well as into **the Great Plains**.

The first permanent European settlement in what was to become the United States was established by the Spanish in the middle 1500s at St. Augustine in Florida. However, it would not play a part in the formation of the new nation. That story took place in settlements farther north along the Atlantic coast—in Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, and the 10 other areas colonized by a growing tide of immigrants from Europe.

The Colonial Era

The first successful English colony was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. A few years later, English **Puritans** came to America to escape religious **persecution** for their opposition to the Church of England. In 1620, the Puritans founded **Plymouth Colony** in what later became Massachusetts. Plymouth was the

second permanent British settlement in North America and the first in New England.

In New England the Puritans hoped to build a “city upon a hill” – an ideal community. Ever since, Americans have **viewed** their country **as** a great experiment, a worthy model for other nations to follow. The Puritans believed that government should **enforce** God’s **morality**, and they strictly punished **heretics**, **adulterers**, drunks, and **violators of the Sabbath**. In spite of their own quest for religious freedom, the Puritans practiced a form of **intolerant moralism**. In 1636 an English **clergyman** named Roger Williams left Massachusetts and founded the colony of **Rhode Island**, based on the principles of religious freedom and separation of church and state, two ideals that were later adopted by **framers** of the U. S. Constitution.

Colonists arrived from other European countries, but the English were far better established in America. By 1733 English settlers had founded 13 colonies along the Atlantic Coast, from **New Hampshire** in the North to Georgia in the South. Elsewhere in North America, the French controlled Canada and Louisiana, which included the vast Mississippi River **watershed**. France and England fought several wars during the 18th century, with North America being drawn into every one. The end of the Seven Years’ War in 1763 left England in control of Canada and all of North America east of the Mississippi.

Soon afterwards England and its colonies were in conflict. The mother country **imposed** new taxes, **in part** to **defray** the cost of fighting **the Seven Years’ War**, and expected Americans to **lodge** British soldiers in their homes. The **colonists resented** the taxes and resisted the **quartering** of soldiers. Insisting that they could be taxed only by their own colonial **assemblies**, the colonists **rallied** behind the **slogan** “no taxation without representation.”

All the taxes, except one on tea, were removed, but in 1773 a group of **patriots** responded by staging **the Boston Tea Party**. **Disguised as** Indians, they boarded British merchant ships and **dumped** 342 **crates** of tea into Boston harbor. This **provoked** a **crackdown** by the British Parliament, including the closing of Boston harbor to shipping. Colonial leaders **convened** the First Continental

Congress in 1774 to discuss the colonies' opposition to British rule. War broke out on April 19, 1775, when British soldiers confronted colonial rebels in **Lexington**, Massachusetts. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted a **Declaration of Independence**.

At first the Revolutionary War went badly for the Americans. With few **provisions** and little training, American troops generally fought well, but were outnumbered and overpowered by the British. The turning point in the war came in 1777 when American soldiers defeated the British Army at **Saratoga**, New York. France had secretly been aiding the Americans, but was reluctant to **ally** itself openly until they had proved themselves in battle. Following the Americans' victory at Saratoga, France and America signed treaties of **alliance**, and France provided the Americans with troops and warships.

The last major battle of the American Revolution took place at **Yorktown**, Virginia, in 1781. A combined force of American and French troops surrounded the British and forced their **surrender**. Fighting continued in some areas for two more years, and the war officially ended with **the Treaty of Paris** in 1783, by which England recognized American independence.

(Words: 1104)

New Words

colonial	<i>adj.</i> 殖民地的, 殖民的
mound	<i>n.</i> 堆; 高地; 坟堆; 护堤
pyramid	<i>n.</i> 金字塔; 角锥体
clan	<i>n.</i> 宗族; 部落; 集团
communal	<i>adj.</i> 公共的; 公社的
primarily	<i>adv.</i> 首先; 主要地, 根本上
hieroglyphic	<i>n.</i> 象形文字; 象形文字写的文章 <i>adj.</i> 象形文字的; 难解的

续表

evidence	<i>n.</i> 证据, 证明; 迹象; 明显
hostile	<i>adj.</i> 敌对的, 敌方的; 怀敌意的
flourish	<i>vi.</i> 繁荣, 兴旺; 茂盛; 活跃; 处于旺盛时期
permanent	<i>adj.</i> 永久的, 永恒的; 不变的
settlement	<i>n.</i> 解决, 处理; 殖民
chiefly	<i>adv.</i> 主要地; 首先
finance	<i>n.</i> 财政, 财政学; 金融 <i>vt.</i> 负担经费, 供给…经费 <i>vi.</i> 筹措资金
mission	<i>n.</i> 使命, 任务; 代表团; 布道 <i>vt.</i> 派遣; 向……传教
mythical	<i>adj.</i> 神话的; 虚构的
Puritan	<i>adj.</i> 清教徒的 <i>n.</i> 清教徒
persecution	<i>n.</i> 迫害; 烦扰
enforce	<i>vt.</i> 实施, 执行; 强迫, 强制
morality	<i>n.</i> 道德; 品行, 美德
heretic	<i>adj.</i> 异端的; 异教的 <i>n.</i> 异教徒, 异端者
adulterer	<i>n.</i> 奸夫; 通奸者 (尤指男人)
violator	<i>n.</i> 违背者; 违反者; 妨碍者
intolerant	<i>adj.</i> 无法忍受的; 偏狭的
moralism	<i>n.</i> 道德主义; 格言; 教训
clergyman	<i>n.</i> 牧师; 教士
framer	<i>n.</i> 组成者; 筹划者
watershed	<i>n.</i> (美) 流域; 分水岭; 集水区; 转折点
impose	<i>vt.</i> 强加; 征税; 以…欺骗 <i>vi.</i> 利用; 欺骗; 施加影响
defray	<i>vt.</i> 支出; 支付
lodge	<i>n.</i> 旅馆; 门房; 集会处; 山林小屋 <i>vi.</i> 寄宿; 临时住宿 <i>vt.</i> 提出; 寄存; 借住; 嵌入

续表

colonist	<i>n.</i> 殖民者; 殖民地居民; 移民
resent	<i>vt.</i> 怨恨; 愤恨; 厌恶
quartering	<i>adj.</i> 成直角的; 四等分的 <i>n.</i> 四等分; 四分法
assembly	<i>n.</i> 装配; 集会, 集合
rally	<i>n.</i> 集会; 回复; 公路赛车会 <i>vt.</i> 团结; 集合; 恢复健康、力量等 <i>vi.</i> 团结; 重整; 恢复; (网球等) 连续对打
slogan	<i>n.</i> 标语; 呐喊声
patriot	<i>n.</i> 爱国者
dump	<i>vt.</i> 倾倒; 倾卸; 丢下, 卸下; <i>vi.</i> 倒垃圾; 突然跌倒或落下; 卸货;
crate	<i>n.</i> 板条箱; 篓 <i>vt.</i> 将某物装入大木箱或板条箱中
provoke	<i>vt.</i> 驱使; 激怒; 煽动; 惹起
crackdown	<i>n.</i> 镇压; (美) 制裁; 强制取缔; 惩罚
convene	<i>vt.</i> 召集, 集合; 传唤 <i>vi.</i> 聚集, 集合
provision	<i>n.</i> 规定; 条款; 准备; [经] 供应品 <i>vt.</i> 供给…食物及必需品
ally	<i>n.</i> 同盟国; 伙伴; 同盟者; 助手 <i>vt.</i> 使联盟; 使联合 <i>vi.</i> 联合; 结盟
alliance	<i>n.</i> 联盟, 联合; 联姻
surrender	<i>n.</i> 投降; 放弃; 交出; 屈服 <i>vt.</i> 使投降; 放弃; 交出; 听任 <i>vi.</i> 投降; 屈服; 自首

Phrases & Expressions

be closely tied to	与……密切相关
play a part in…	在……中起作用
set out	出发

续表

a growing tide of	日益增多的
view...as	把……看作, 认为……是
in part	部分地, 某种程度上
disguise...as	把……装扮成

Proper Names

Alaska	阿拉斯加州
Hohokam	霍霍坎文化
Adenans	阿戴南斯 (美国早期族群)
Hopewellians	霍皮威利安斯 (美国早期族群)
Anasazi	阿那萨齐族, 早期定居在科罗拉多西南部的族群
Hopi	霍皮语; 霍皮人
Zuni	祖尼人; 祖尼语
Christopher Columbus	克里斯多弗·哥伦布 (意大利航海家)
Genoa	热那亚 (意大利西北部港市)
the Caribbean Sea	加勒比海 (位于拉丁美洲)
John Cabot	约翰·卡伯特 (意大利航海家)
Venice	威尼斯 (意大利港市)
Juan Ponce de León	胡安·庞塞·德莱昂 (西班牙航海家)
Hernando De Soto	赫尔南多·德索托 (西班牙航海家和征服者)
Francisco Vázquez de Coronado	弗朗西斯科·巴斯克斯·科罗纳多 (西班牙探险家)
Seven Cities of Cibola	希波拉七城市
the Grand Canyon	科罗拉多大峡谷
the Great Plains	大平原 (北美中西部的平原和河谷地区)
Plymouth Colony	普利茅斯殖民地
the Sabbath	安息日
Rhode Island	美国罗得岛州

续表

New Hampshire	新罕布什尔 (美国州名)
Lexington	列克星敦市 (位于美国肯塔基州)
Saratoga	萨拉托加 (美国纽约州东部一个村落)
Yorktown	约克城 (美国弗吉尼亚州东南部城镇)

Cultural Notes

1. The Seven Years' War was fought between 1754 and 1763, the main conflict occurring in the seven-year period 1756—1763. It involved most of the great powers of the time and affected Europe, North America, Central America, the West African coast, India, and the Philippines. The two major opponents were Great Britain and France. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris among France, Spain and Great Britain and the Treaty of Hubertusburg among Saxony, Austria and Prussia, in 1763. It was characterized in Europe by sieges and arson of towns as well as open battles with extremely heavy losses; overall, some 900,000 to 1,400,000 people died. The war was successful for Great Britain, which gained the bulk of New France in North America. The Seven Years' War was the last major military conflict fought on the European continent before the outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars in 1792. For more information, visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Years%27_War.

2. The Boston Tea Party (initially referred to by John Adams as “the Destruction of the Tea in Boston”) was a political protest by the Sons of Liberty in Boston, on December 16, 1773. The demonstrators, some disguised as American Indians, destroyed an entire shipment of tea sent by the East India Company, in defiance of the Tea Act of May 10, 1773. They boarded the ships and threw the chests of tea into Boston Harbor, ruining the tea. The British government responded harshly and the episode escalated into the American Revolution. The Tea Party became an iconic event of American history, and other political protests such as the Tea Party movement after 2010 explicitly refer to it. For more information, visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party.

3. The Declaration of Independence is a statement adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, which announced that the thirteen American colonies then at war with Great Britain were now independent states, and thus no longer a part of the British Empire. Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration is a formal explanation of why Congress had voted on July 2 to declare independence from Great Britain, more than a year after the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War. The birthday of the United States of America—Independence Day—is celebrated on July 4, the day the wording of the Declaration was approved by Congress. For more information, visit http://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence.html.

4. The Treaty of Paris, signed in Paris by representatives of King George III of Great Britain and representatives of the United States of America on September 3, 1783, ended the American Revolutionary War. This treaty, along with the separate peace treaties between Great Britain and the nations that supported the American cause: France, Spain and the Dutch Republic, are known collectively as the Peace of Paris. Its territorial provisions were “exceedingly generous” to the United States in terms of enlarged boundaries. For more information, visit [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_\(1783\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1783))

Exercises

Comprehension of the Text

I. Answer the following questions according to the passage.

1. What is the major cause of the Seven Years' War?
2. What do you know about the Boston Tea Party?
3. Where did the last major battle of the American Revolution take place?

Vocabulary

II. Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

provoke	enforce	mythical	chiefly	intolerant
impose	flourish	permanent	finance	crackdown
convene	resent	violator	mission	hostile

1. Postmodern is just the period which the image culture began to _____.
2. If you try to enforce a culture on others, you may _____ internal protests.
3. His _____ to the woman found vent in a sharp remark.
4. They take it for granted that they know more than everyone else, and become narcissistic, proud and _____.
5. This article explains how our _____ hero implemented secure messaging for his vendors and himself.
6. Only true love and compassion for all can bring back _____ prosperity to the human race.
7. We recommend that you _____ this practice rigidly.
8. The _____ with tanks and troops showed no signs of easing amid an international outcry over violence against demonstrators.
9. These are not things that we seek to _____ this is who we are.
10. Students should be friendly to others. Violence is strictly forbidden! _____ will be punished according to the university rules and the law.

Translations**III. Translate the following sentences into English.**

1. 它原本是佛教徒的节日，但现在成为全国人民相互泼水的节日，据说这代表了一种精神洗礼。(be closely tied to)

2. 身体健康是老年人保持独立生活能力并且在家庭和社区生活中发挥重要作用的关键所在。(play a part in)

3. 联合国环境规划署与海洋保护环境组织共同研究的最新报告指出, 日益增加的海洋废弃物问题危害全球的海洋与沙滩。(a growing tide of)

4. 我们是否可以继续按计划举行会议, 部分地取决于什么时候那种传染病会得到控制。(in part)

5. 我们吃着含有有机成分的有机垃圾食品, 而因为它贴上有机标志, 就伪装成为健康食品。(disguise...as)

IV. Translate the following passage into English.

第一批殖民者 17 世纪定居在大陆的东海岸, 自此就开始了他们的拓荒经历。到了 1890 年, 当西部的最后一片土地也有了定居者后, 拓荒经历也随之结束了。美国的边远地区还包括一些相对无人居住的地区, 大多分布在美国的西部。相对于居民较多的东部地区, 这里的土地更荒凉, 生命也更原始。当一个拓荒地区被开拓之后, 人们就会开始向西部更远、尚无定居的地方迁移, 而且他们迁移时会把当地的美国土著人全部赶走。随着一个接一个定居点的建立, 美国人的足迹遍布 2700 英里宽的整个大陆。他们开始相信, 控制所有的土地是命运对他们的安排, 最后他们也确实做到了这一点。美国人也曾经给当地的土著人留出了小部分土地, 称作“居留地”, 但是美国政府违背了自己许下的许多诺言, 给整个印第安民族带来了灾难。

TEXT B The Road to Independence

Road to Independence

(A) The principles of **liberalism** and **democracy**—the political foundation of the United States—**sprang** naturally **from** the process of building a new society on a virgin land. Just as naturally, the new nation would see itself as different and exceptional. Europe would view it with **apprehension**, or hope.

(B) Britain's 13 North American colonies matured during the 1700s. They grew in population, economic strength, and cultural attainment. They were experi-

enced in self-government. Yet it was not until 170 years after the founding of the first permanent settlement at **Jamestown**, Virginia, that the new United States of America emerged as a nation.

(C) War between Britain and France in the 1750s was fought partly in North America. Britain was victorious and soon initiated policies designed to control and fund its vast empire. These measures **imposed** greater restraints **on** the American colonists' way of life.

(D) **The Royal Proclamation of 1763** restricted the opening of new lands for settlement. **The Sugar Act of 1764** placed taxes on luxury goods, including coffee, silk, and wine, and made it illegal to import rum. **The Currency Act of 1764** prohibited the printing of paper money in the colonies. **The Quartering Act of 1765** forced colonists to provide food and housing for royal troops. And **the Stamp Act of 1765** required the purchase of royal stamps for all legal documents, newspapers, licenses, and leases.

(E) Colonists objected to all these measures, but the Stamp Act sparked the greatest organized resistance. The main issue, in the eyes of a growing number of colonists, was that they were being taxed by a distant **legislature** in which they could not participate. In October 1765, 27 delegates from nine colonies met in New York to coordinate efforts to get the Stamp Act **repealed**. They passed resolutions asserting the individual colonies' right to impose their own taxes.

(F) Self-government produced local political leaders, and these were the men who worked together to defeat what they considered to be oppressive acts of Parliament. After they succeeded, their coordinated campaign against Britain ended. During the next several years, however, a small number of **radicals** tried to keep the controversy alive. Their goal was not accommodation, but independence.

(G) **Samuel Adams** of Massachusetts was the most effective. He wrote newspaper articles and made speeches appealing to the colonists' democratic instincts. He helped organize committees throughout the colonies that became the basis of a revolutionary movement. By 1773, the movement had attracted colonial traders who were angry with British attempts to regulate the tea trade. In December, a group of men **sneaked on** to three British ships in Boston harbor and