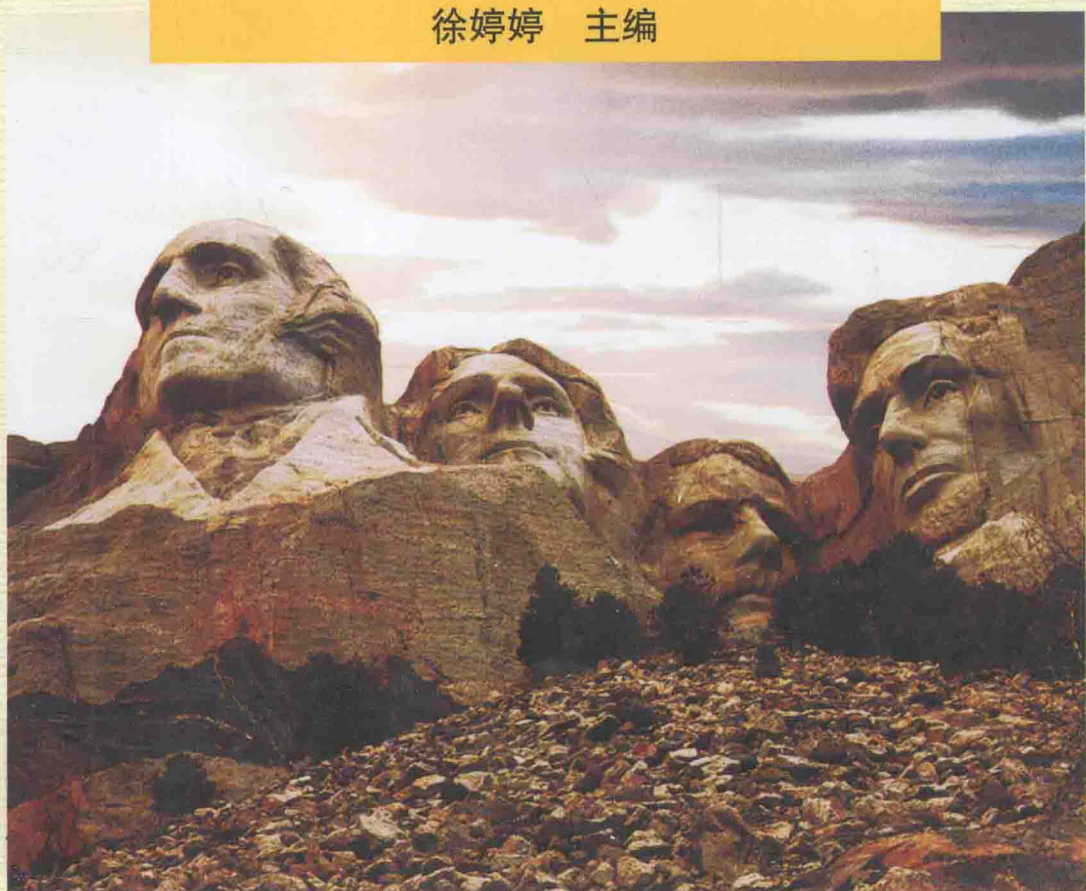


21世纪英语专业系列教材

American Society
Past and Present

美国社会 过去与现在

徐婷婷 主编



北京大学出版社
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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American Society: Past and Present

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编写说明

这本《美国社会：过去与现在》是我在讲授“美国社会与文化”课程的教学实践基础上构思的，是四川外语学院重点建设课程立项项目。编写时参照了《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》的规定和建议，同时，因为有美籍教师的参与，教材编写也借鉴了国外教材的体系。

编写之前，编辑人员曾对市面上现有的有关美国社会与文化的相关教材仔细研究过，并结合课程教学实践经验，试图寻求自己的特色：

- (1) 教材充分考虑年轻学生的兴趣点，同时注重历史和时代的结合。通过引导学习者关注美国社会文化生活中的变化，便于他们了解完整真实的文化信息。
- (2) 语言简洁，内容紧凑，有利于自主学习，适用面广。该教材适合于英语专业本科生的课程需要，也适合高校公共英语教学使用，适合英语学习爱好者拓宽知识面。
- (3) 教材体系完整，启发性强。章节内容之后附带的问答题和思考题有助于学习者在了解文化信息的基础上，培养独立思考和辩证思维能力。
- (4) 推荐材料是对章节内容的拓展和延伸，为自主学习提供了必要的参考资料。

本书共分为十六个章节，主要章节编辑情况如下：徐婷婷负责全书的构思策划、编辑审校和后期的整理工作，并编写第八、十二章；美籍教师Timothy Hoffman编写第一、三、十章；叶向平编写第二章；汪海源编写第四章；王洁编写第五章；张婷编写第六章；杨志亭编写第七章；蓝小燕编写第九章；石俊杰编写第十一章；吕佳编写第十三章；蒲显伟编写第十四章；钟毅编写第十五章；董雪飞编写第十六章。除蒲显伟老师（现任教于南京理工大学外国语学院）外，其余编者均为四川外语学院英语教师，绝大部分有海外留学、访学、工作经历，这其中还有语言文学、传媒学、国际关系学等方向的博士。大部分教师主讲过美国社会文化、英语国家概况、西方文化等文化知识类课程。在此要特别感谢上述各位教师给予本书编辑工作的支持。感谢四川外语学院美国研究所张涛教授在本书的编辑过程中给予的建议和指导。美籍教师Timothy Hoffman对于本书的语言校对给予了最大程度的帮助，在此也要特别致谢！

我们团队成员在编书过程中付出了巨大的努力，但由于水平有限，教材中难免存在疏漏和不足，希望全国各地的同行不吝赐教，希望在学习过程中体验本书内容的同学提出改进意见和建议，以完善教材，为提高英语专业文化课程的质量共同努力。

编者
2014年7月



Preface and Acknowledgement

Because of our growing and ever-changing world and how countries are now connected to each other, many times through information shared, the need to know and understand other cultures and societies has become important, if not vital. Our everyday practices, opportunities seized or lost, and issues confronting governments, organizations, and a country's citizenry present challenges with possible outcomes of success or failure, dependent upon what is known, understood, and acted upon. History can be one tool to use in the process of attempting to understand current issues facing countries as each interacts with the other, particularly when those conditions seem to hinder smooth exchanges, be it in areas of economy, ideology, traditions, ideas, regulations, or even affecting commonly shared goals. Impediments to such areas may erect barriers and unnecessary obstacles, resulting in misunderstandings, and ultimately, can make efforts unproductive, and possibly useless. It is with this in mind that this textbook was written, specifically for students to gain a better understanding of America – how it developed, areas of influence in its development, and the American people. The purpose of this textbook is to provide students with a tool with which they may expand their knowledge and understanding of American society and its people in order to prepare them for opportunities and challenges that their future may present to them.

Chapters are presented in a topical order, and to some extent, organized in a funnel format; that is, introducing broader aspects of American culture and society in the beginning chapters, then covering topic areas in a narrower and more specific fashion through successive chapters. All contributing editors to this textbook have identified aspects of American society that each have individually deemed important and interesting to aid in students' use and understanding of the information. It should be stated that each and every chapter of this book presents an area of American society and culture that is an integrated part of its whole. As it is with any society, each component of American culture may be isolated in definition and explanation, but not in its function—each area contributes its own level of synergy that allows the whole to work within its entire structure. To dismiss, diminish, or ignore one

part over another may result in less than an optimal understanding of what makes America, America!

With special permission from all those involved in this extensive project, specifically, in the conception, formation, organization, management, writing, editing and publishing, I would like to give personal acknowledgement and my special and heartfelt thanks to the following individuals:

Dong Xuefei (Chapter 16), Lan Xiaoyan (Chapter 9), Lv Jia (Chapter 13), Pu Xianwei (Chapter 14), Shi Junjie (Chapter 11), Wang Haiyuan (Chapter 5), Wang Jie (Chapter 4), Ye Xiangping (Chapter 2), Yang Zhiting (Chapter 7), Zhang Ting (Chapter 6), Zhongyi (Chapter 15).

Special recognition and appreciation should be extended to Timothy Hoffman, for his assistance in the edition of this textbook and helping to complete this year-long project.

Xu Ting Ting



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CHAPTER 1

Introduction: History of America

Learning Objectives

- To present a brief summary of the United States of America's beginnings, development, and progress
- To establish a historical foundation from which America may be better understood
- To provide a basis where other topics in the book will cover more in depth

►► Early "Americans": The Pre-Columbian Period

People had not lived in the Americas before the arrival of Indians. Most scientists believe the first Native Americans came from Asia at least 15,000 years ago across the now submerged Bering Strait, the waterway that separates the geographical areas of Russia and the USA—now the state of Alaska on the U.S. side. The migration of these people soon spread throughout the Americas, diversifying into hundreds of culturally distinct nations and tribes, ranging from the Arctic regions of North America to the southern tip of South America.

The area of the United States was first visited by the Vikings 1,000 years ago and then by Columbus 500 years ago during his explorations for Spain. In 1492, Columbus landed in what has now become called the "West Indies," or the more familiar term of the Caribbean, but at the time he mistakenly thought he had reached Asian India. When he was welcomed by people with a brown-skinned appearance, he mistakenly called them "Indios." Thereafter, the term "Indians" was commonly used, and still is today in more casual language usage.

The earliest European history of what is now the United States was Spanish, not English. Hispanic/Latino presence in the United States is the second longest, after the Native Americans. Spanish presence began in the 16th century when Europeans explored America. In 1513, the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon discovered a sunny area off North America's southeastern coast that he dubbed "La Florida," meaning, "Land of Flowers," an area in the present-day state of Florida.

In the western area of America, a Spanish claim on California was firmly established in 1769 by a Roman Catholic priest. Until the end of Spanish rule, this region was deeply embedded with Catholicism and Spanish culture. When the first European settlements began in California, Spain established a series of Catholic missions to lay claim for the Spanish Crown to what is now modern-day California. Mexican independence from Spain in 1821 marked the end of European rule in California, but maintained a strong Spanish influence throughout that area. Due to the ongoing westward expansion of the U.S. from east to west, by 1846, California's Spanish-speaking population was less than 10,000 people, which was very small, even when compared to the sparse population of the states in Mexico.

» Colonial Europeans: The "New Land"

The initial founding of Spanish outposts in Florida were later followed by Englishmen who established the first permanent settlement as a business venture in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia, coordinated through the Virginia Company, a chartered common stock company. There were also indentured laborers moving into the New Land hoping for a new life. Indentured laborers were workers committed to work for an employer for a specified number of years while under contract. Once the terms of the contract were fulfilled, the workers were able to choose their own livelihood. They came to the Americas believing there was hope in the overseas colonies because many of these people were losing the use of land in their own country. Also among these economic seekers were French and Russian fur traders.

Other groups came to the New Land for religious reasons. The Protestant Reformation of the 16th century broke the unity of Western Christendom and led to the formation of new religious sects. Because of this, they often faced persecution by government authorities. The Puritans from England were such a group and they arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620 as they were searching for religious freedom from the Church of England. The terms, "Pilgrims" and "Puritans," are often thought to describe the same group of people, but these were actually two different groups holding different beliefs, though they did have much in common. Over time, America witnessed a gradual influx of many types of religious groups—Anglicans, Dutch Calvinists, English Puritans, English Catholics, Scottish Presbyterians, French Huguenots, and German and Swedish Lutherans. By 1733 there were 13 colonies established along the eastern side of the Americas.

▶ American Revolution (1775 to 1783): Seeking Independence

What was to become the United States of America, and from its very beginning, America was founded upon and developed from the common beliefs of its early settlers, which were: 1) a representative form of government; 2) rule of law; 3) respect for individual rights; 4) religious tolerance, though not fully shared by Puritans; and 5) a strong belief in individual enterprise. These fundamentals formed the basis for its growth from its very beginning. As the 13 colonies grew in population and self-reliance, their desire to become independent from British rule also grew. Because they were established as a British colony, they were subject to British laws, taxes, and government.

There were three primary factors that caused the colonists to seek their independence from England: 1) England was taxing the colonists to help them cover the costs of England's war against France in Canada, known as the **Seven Years' War**; 2) without permission British soldiers were occupying the colonists' homes to live in during the war with France; and 3) colonists felt England had too much control over them, including the methods of colonial trade with Britain and other countries. The first army formed in America was composed of rebels called "Minutemen," who were small groups organized to fight British soldiers prior to the Colonies declaring independence from Britain. The colonists formally declared their independence on July 4, 1776 and the American Revolution was fought to gain their independence from Britain. The early years of the war were very difficult with few victories and many defeats, but resolve, perseverance, competent leadership and the eventual assistance from France brought defeat to England and independence to America on September 3, 1783 when the Treaty of Paris was signed, officially ending the war.

After American independence was won, the process of forming a national government and uniting the separate and independent colonies began. Delegates from each of the 13 colonies were chosen and meetings were held at a Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, presided over by George Washington. Under America's first governing document, the Articles of Confederation written in 1781, which was an initial attempt to unite the 13 separate colonies, the national government was weak and states operated as independent countries. At the 1787 convention, delegates devised a plan for a stronger federal government to unite the country as one. From this convention the *U.S. Constitution* was signed on September 17, 1787, by each colony's designated delegate, and the *U.S. Constitution* established America's national government, its fundamental laws, and guaranteed certain basic rights for its citizens.

► Post-American Revolution: Story of Expansion

America's westward expansion was "justified" by the American government through a policy of "manifest destiny," that is, the belief that the U.S. was "destined" to expand across the continent. Thomas Jefferson, the third U.S. president, in 1803 purchased the middle area of the U.S. claimed by France. This became known as the **Louisiana Purchase** and it doubled the size of the U.S. overnight. This geographic change influenced and encouraged many groups of people to begin a migration into the western areas of America, including those from other countries wanting to immigrate to the U.S., especially with deteriorating conditions in Europe with wars, famine and religious persecutions.

As America continued to move westward and expand through an ever growing immigrant population, there were significant events and wars that the U.S. was involved in helping to consolidate land areas of the Americas held by other countries. The Mexican-American War between the American expansionists and Mexico was fought from 1846 to 1848. It ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, establishing the Rio Grande River as the U.S.-Mexican border between the two countries. This brought to the United States the borders of the southwestern lands encompassing modern-day California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and portions of Colorado, Utah and Nevada.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 further expanded the U.S. sphere of influence into former Spanish territories, such as Cuba and Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico had been colonized by the Spanish after its discovery by Columbus in 1493. It was moving towards independence in the late 19th century, but in July, 1898 the United States invaded Puerto Rico, controlling the island until a civilian government was established in 1900. According to federal law, people born in Puerto Rico and Guam are American citizens, but without voting rights in U.S. elections. With the annexation of Hawaii in 1901, and the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867, the U.S. has come to its present geographical size.

This expansion of the United States land and territories did not come about without pain, suffering and injustices afforded to some groups of peoples. Large numbers of Native Americans were forced to resettle on reservation lands set aside by the U.S. Government, a direct result of this westward expansion. Because of this, the country underwent a time of armed conflict known as the "Indian Wars," which continued throughout the 19th century and into the early 20th century. Even now, reparations are administered in attempts to right past wrongs forced upon Native Americans.

► Immigration: The Heart of America's Growth

Immigration has been the source and substance of America's development, though Americans may at times forget this. The first large wave of European migration after the American Revolutionary

War came from Northern and Western Europe between 1820 and 1890. Most of these immigrants were from Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Britain, including large numbers of Irish and German Catholics, influencing Roman Catholicism to become an important minority religion. The second wave of European Americans arrived from the mid-1890s to the 1920s, mainly from Southern and Eastern Europe. This wave included Italians, Greeks, Hungarians, Portuguese, Ukrainians, Russians, Poles and the Irish who came to the United States to escape the famine that decimated a third of the population in their own homeland. From these two movements **European Americans** now make up the largest ethnic group of immigrants in America.

Though the civil war was a time of division for the country, it also brought immigrants into the country, both during the war and after cessation of fighting. After the civil war America grew rapidly in the areas of industry, autos, railroads and inventions, such as telephone, light bulb, phonograph and movies. As businesses grew and prospered, people and companies became wealthy. Monopolies and trusts became a problem as business controlled competition within the economy. Congress passed laws making it illegal for companies to “restrain free trade,” stemming from monopolies that controlled free markets and stifled competition.

It was during this time when factories grew that populations shifted from rural to urban areas, and the development of America’s middle class took hold, and where living and working conditions within city areas diminished for many. Immigrants were particularly affected by such conditions and it was in the early 1900s when the **Progressive Movement** rose. This was when the social consciousness of America began to form and the plight of individuals that needed help became a priority of government, private organizations, and individuals. It was during this period that social reforms were directed toward improving people’s lives. Laws and organizations looked to eliminate, or improve, conditions of poverty, housing, health, jobs, child labor, injuries and other needed areas of American society.

► Slavery Era/Civil War

Because the issue of slavery was and is an important part of American history, an understanding of how it began in America, what occurred as America grew, and where it has brought America may be helpful in understanding some of America’s present conditions. **African Americans** make up the single largest racial minority in the United States and form the second largest racial group, after whites, in the United States. Most African Americans are the descendants of slave-traded Africans brought to the United States from 1619 to 1865.

African American history began in the 17th century. The first recorded Africans in British North America arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. However, they were not slaves, but rather, indentured servants who went to the Americas for the price of performing several years' contract labor. They were allowed to farm by raising their own crops and cattle in order to eventually purchase their freedom at the end of their contract. But, with the vast amount of good land and a shortage of laborers, plantation owners in America wanted a more permanent solution to their labor problems. The slave trade, which had already begun in South America and the Caribbean areas in the early 16th century, and through America's own colonial expansion, provided a better ready-made choice for them rather than the nomadic native Indians as a source of labor.

Slavery in America was instituted primarily from three existing conditions at that time: 1) to prevent freed indentured laborers from becoming a competition for resources; 2) the ambiguous social status of black people; and 3) the difficulty in using other groups as forced labor. Massachusetts was the first colony to legalize slavery in 1641 and by the 18th century the race-based slave system was fully developed. Even George Washington and Thomas Jefferson had slaves. At that time, slaves were considered "property" and the phrase "All men are created equal" did not apply to black people.

Initially, slaves were brought to America to help with farming and agriculture, especially in the southern areas of the country. As America grew, this became a significant problem for the country's belief and legal system based on its constitution. 11 states in the south seceded from America and declared themselves a separate country. The **American Civil War** was fought between the North and the South from 1861 to 1865. Upon the Northern armies defeating the Southern armies, the war solved two problems for the nation as a whole: 1) slavery ended, and 2) it established that American states are individual, but cannot act independent from the whole country.

Once the American Civil War had ended, the following period was marked by strong growth and development because: 1) there was little political involvement in foreign affairs; 2) westward expansion continued; 3) slaves were free, and European and Asian immigration poured into the US; 4) strong advances in science and inventions were made in the late 1800s; 5) competition from foreign goods was relatively small; and 6) America was rich in natural resources.

Expansion into World Affairs: Significant Events

As the United States grew, developed and prospered, it generally did so from what could be called an isolationist or protectionist position. That is, America held little interest in affairs of other countries and with international conditions, at least in the sense of direct involvement, and as such, she

was primarily focused on domestic and internal conditions. But, as world conditions changed and as America grew stronger, a time came when U.S. security was directly threatened and she was brought into two world wars.

▶ WWI (1914 to 1918) Period

This war was a war of alliances. Although many of the countries probably did not want a war, they were drawn into it because of the alliances each country had with other countries. Britain at the time was faced with a war in Europe and their own ongoing civil war with Ireland. The primary alliances of Britain, France and Russia fought against Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. All war is terrible but this was an especially brutal war under terrible conditions. During WWI the U.S. tried to stay neutral but was drawn into war when Germany attacked American ships. The U.S. was in the war only for the last year, from 1917 to 1918. Even though the U.S. finally became a participant in this war, at war's end America held to a foreign policy that was still fairly isolated from European issues. Out of WWI the US changed from a debtor nation, owing money to other countries, to a creditor nation where other countries owed money to the U.S.

The Treaty of Versailles that ended WWI severely punished Germany for their parts in the war and was especially harsh on them. Among other conditions of the treaty, it made Germany pay for the cost of the war, took away its military power, and confiscated land that had been acquired by Germany. Unlike the U.S., after the war Britain suffered high unemployment and a weak economic recovery from the war. There were shortages of most things in the country—gas, food and jobs. In contrast to conditions in Britain, the 1920s continued America's rapid growth, strong economic conditions, many social changes, and a time of prosperity for the country. It was also at this time the period of Prohibition occurred where it was made illegal by law to make and sell alcohol, which only added another strong influence on social changes already taking place in the country. This was later repealed in 1933 with a change to the *U.S. Constitution*.

In 1929 the worldwide Great Depression occurred causing an economic downturn for several years. The Great Depression resulted from many economic weaknesses, but it was initiated by the “crash” of the stock market in 1929, called “**Black Thursday**.” The 1930s was a time of economic depression for the entire world and the U.S. was not isolated from it. It was during this period of depressed economic conditions that American citizens began to directly rely on the federal government for individual assistance. Franklin Roosevelt was elected president in 1933 and promised a “New Deal” for everyone. He initiated programs, spent money, passed specific laws to assist people, but it

wasn't until WWII began that finally brought the U.S. economy out of the depression.

▶ WWII (1939 to 1945) Period

Germany had been feeling the harsh economic effects from the conditions set forth in the Treaty of Versailles since World War I, so they began to ignore it. Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and began to annex, meaning acquire, some of the land that had been taken away from them after WWI. When he invaded Poland, both Britain and France declared war on Germany. Germany then occupied France and continually bombed England, decimating it. The U.S., still trying to recover from poor economic conditions, tried to stay neutral, but on December 6, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and the next day, America declared war on Japan and joined the side of Britain. In WWII the opposing fighting sides were called: **Axis Powers**—Germany, Italy, and Japan; and **Allied Powers**—Britain, USA and the Soviet Union. The war ended when Germany surrendered in May, 1945 and Japan surrendered in August, 1945.

Unlike at the ending of World War I, the U.S. took a strong world leadership role in global affairs. America joined the newly formed United Nations organization, helped to rebuild Western Europe by providing aid and assistance through the **Marshall Plan** (1947–1952), assisted directly in Japan's economic recovery, and developed a foreign policy to stem the growth of Communism by using **The Truman Doctrine** (1947), which stated that the U.S. Government would support any country that was opposed to Communism. This placed the U.S. squarely into world affairs and in a direct leadership position that they were willing to assume for the first time.

▶ Truman Doctrine in Application

Korea (1950 to 1953)

One of the consequences of World War II was the division of the Korean Peninsula, previously controlled by the Empire of Japan from 1910. Following Japan's surrender at the end of World War II the peninsula was divided between the North and South at the 38th parallel where U.S. military forces occupied the southern half and Soviet military forces occupied the northern half. As relations deteriorated between America and the Soviet Union, the North established a communist government, while the South established a capitalist government. Tensions rose between the two governments the situation escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. Military intervention was authorized by the United Nations and the U.S. was again directly involved in an armed conflict, even though this conflict was much smaller in size than the two previous

world wars. The Korean War ended in 1953 by an armistice, so technically, North and South Korea are still at war with each other.

Vietnam (1955 to 1975)

Just as U.S. involvement in the Korean War was a direct result of The Truman Doctrine established after World War II, America again became involved in a similar situation in Vietnam where this country was divided at the 17th parallel between two governments—a communist government, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in North Vietnam, and the republican government, the Republic of Vietnam in South Vietnam. Because of America's foreign policy with regards to countries not wanting to establish a communist type of government, America was committed to **the Vietnam War**. As the Vietnam War became protracted in its duration, it became an unpopular war with most Americans, and the federal government was faced with increasing domestic opposition to it. The U.S. military actually left Vietnam upon reaching an agreement with North Vietnam in 1973, but soon afterwards in 1975, North Vietnam defeated South Vietnam and unified it into one country to form the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In retrospect, the negative effects of the Vietnam War are seen as: 1) leaving America economically weakened; 2) it divided American society; 3) it was disruptive; 4) people became politically disillusioned; and 5) it left America with a tarnished global image.

Cold War and More

Absent of direct military hostility and actual combat was the Cold War during the years 1947 to 1991, primarily between the global superpowers of the United States and the Soviet Union. Considering the seriousness of confrontations and possible consequences, very little direct military engagements actually took place between these two countries, though this was a period of constant warnings and threats, political maneuverings, economic impacts, and at times, a growing arsenal of nuclear capabilities. The Cold War actually ended in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union (USSR) and the formation of the fifteen republics following the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

As a world leader and in more recent times, the U.S. has since been involved in other armed conflicts in varying capacities, either as a direct military combatant or simply as a political observer—the Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, The Arab Spring in 2011 and Libya. However America is viewed by different countries and in many differing ways under different conditions and situations, either positively or negatively, it is easily seen that since World War II the United States has become a primary world leader and continues to do so to protect its own interests and to support the interests of other countries.

►► 1960s and Beyond: A Time of Great Change

With America's emergence out of World War II as a world leader and having an increased willingness to assume global responsibility roles, the U.S. four itself placed in positions of cooperation, conflict, change, and comfort. In each of these four areas America grew in its global strength and inherence, both internationally and domestically to rebuild Europe and Japan, provided assistance to Third World countries and their development, and established and developed its own ties with other countries in areas of trade, agreements, technologies, and alliances. Notable international events during this period were also punctuated by **conflicts**, some involving the military while others remained as issues of dispute to be resolved by peaceful dialogue. Change during these times was significant for the United States and for its people, culture, and society, with influences coming from outside the country and from inside America. During this period the standard of living rose for the vast majority of Americans in dramatic fashion, as did the **comfort** level of their lives.

The economic “boom” for America was found in three primary areas: autos, housing and defense industries. These areas overlapped into and supported many other areas of people's lives, but the advances, investments and development in these three areas economically and rapidly moved America and her people into a “comfort zone” that had not been experienced by previous generations, at least in the same national capacity. Though these were times of prosperity and production, it was also a time when social issues rose to the surface of society. One such area was the Civil Rights Movement, which had been simmering for many years after the American Civil War; it unleashed itself in 1954 when the US Supreme Court decided that the policy of “separate but equal” doctrines when applied to black Americans was unconstitutional. Until that time, specifically in southern states, blacks and whites were kept separate in most areas of life—separate schools, separate housing, separate washrooms, separate stores, even separate drinking fountains. With this decision the movement gained momentum and brought protests, legal challenges, “Freedom Marches,” and change! From the Civil Rights Movement other groups, who were discriminated against, began to bring their own issues to the attention of society and the country has never been the same since. A culture of protest, spawned in the 1960s, has now grown to full maturity during the last 50 years.

Out of World War II, nuclear capabilities had been developed. This is a technology that can be of immense benefit to mankind, or used in its destruction. The 1960s brought the world the closest it has ever been to a nuclear war. With the development of nuclear weapons and a stockpiling of a nuclear arsenal, the United States and the Soviet Union made the “Cold War” that much “colder” evidenced