

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN HISTORY

SIXTH EDITION

Edited by Richard B. Morris

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ENCYCLOPEDIA OF American History

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Foreword to the Sixth Edition



The speed with which America has been swept up in the Age of High Technology threatens to obliterate the past, with its collective memory of the political and cultural foundations, economic developments, and moral and social forces which shaped its traditions. History returns us to the roots and branches, and the facts which it records about the past enable us to evaluate our rapidly changing values and institutions. To aid such an evaluation this *Encyclopedia* aims to provide in a single handy volume the essential historical facts about American life and institutions. The organization is both chronological and topical. *Dates, events, achievements, and persons* stand out, but the text is designed to be read as a narrative.

The *Encyclopedia* is comprehensive in its coverage. There are four main divisions. Part I (Basic Chronology) presents the major political and military events in the history of the United States, introduced by an account of explorations, settlement, and colonial and Revolutionary problems. After reviewing the main political and constitutional developments in the original Thirteen Colonies, the focus is widened to encompass imperial and intercolonial issues. Thereafter the emphasis is upon national, federal, or major sectional problems rather than on localized and isolated occurrences—on the President, Congress, the Supreme Court, and the issues of war and peace.

Events are arranged in time sequence, with annual coverage beginning with the year 1763. For the purpose of clarity, however, as well as compression, many subjects are arbitrarily treated under the year in which they came to national attention; but, where feasible, the entire story is told only once even though it may be necessary to spread the net over more than one year. For instance, the removal of the federal government's deposits from the 2d Bank of the U.S. is treated under the year 1833 when it took place, but the censuring resolution of 1834 is thereunder included as well as the final expunging of that resolution in 1837. If, then, you do not find the entry under the year in which the event occurred, consult the Index.

The nonpolitical aspects of American life are examined in Part II (Topical Chronology), which organizes the facts about constitutional developments, American expansion, and demographic, economic, scientific, technological, and

cultural trends. Much of this information has never been presented before in a general chronological framework. Needless to say, social and cultural events and contributions often do not lend themselves to close dating.

A special feature of the *Encyclopedia* is Part III (Biographical Section), which furnishes data on 500 notable Americans chosen for their outstanding achievements in major fields of activity. Elsewhere, the names of significant persons not included in this section are followed (the first time cited) by the dates of birth and death and in many cases by brief biographical information.

Part IV covering the structure of the federal government provides listings of Presidents, Cabinet heads, Supreme Court justices, as well as the texts of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Events Before 1752. The old Julian Calendar, in force in Great Britain and her colonies until 1752, overestimated the solar year by 11 minutes 14 seconds a year. Under that calendar the year technically began on 25 Mar. The New Style Calendar, which went into effect in 1752 (based upon the calendar ordained by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582), adjusted the errors in the old chronology by adding 10 days down through the year 1699 and 11 days beginning with 1700, and leaving 11 days out of the calendar in 1752 (3 Sept. became 14 Sept.). In addition, the new year once more began on 1 Jan. This chronology follows New Style usage for all dates prior to 1752. Thus, the Mayflower Compact, bearing the date of 11 Nov. 1620, was actually signed on 21 Nov. Under the Julian Calendar (Old Style), George Washington was born 11 Feb. 1731/2, but this book lists it as 22 Feb. 1732 (New Style).

Presidential Elections. Presidential and congressional elections were originally held on varying days. For convenience the day when the electors cast their ballots has been designated election day (the first Wed. in Dec. under the Act of 1 Mar. 1792; the Tues. following the first Mon. in Nov. under Act of 23 Jan. 1845).

Acts of Congress bear the date when they were signed by the president, although the dates of actual passage are indicated when deemed significant, as well as the division of the votes in Senate and House.

Sixth Edition. This revised, enlarged, and updated edition covers American historical events from the era of discovery and exploration to 15 December 1981. Headnotes to each subsection aim to organize and assimilate the discrete facts that follow and to furnish some sense of pattern and significance. Much more space is allotted to minorities, ethnic groups, and the role of women than in earlier editions. The domestic and foreign affairs chronologies have been completely reorganized for the period since 1945 and the content reassessed in terms of recent interpretive scholarship. Extensive changes are found throughout the

Topical Chronology, including under "Expansion of the Nation" sections on "Land, Natural Resources, and the Environment" and on "Indian Land Policy and Reform Since the Civil War." The section on "Population, Immigration, and Ethnic Stocks" includes a conspectus of black Americans since the Civil War, supplementing the updated coverage of Supreme Court decisions on desegregation. The Women's Movement and issues of gender discrimination are found in both the Basic Chronology and the Supreme Court sections. The section on "Indian Land Policy and Reform" covers issues and events through the Carter administration. "The American Economy" section has been extensively enlarged and reorganized, with more recent statistics included. Subsections on Film and Dance have been added to "Thought and Culture," and a new section, "Mass Media," covering the press, radio, and TV, has been incorporated in this edition, along with litigation on free press—fair trial issues (the latter to be found in "Leading Supreme Court Decisions"). Finally, the Biographical Section now provides compact accounts of 500 notable Americans, a compilation based on an extensive poll among historians and specialists in a variety of fields.

A concluding word about historical facts. The *Encyclopedia* endeavors to incorporate the results of the latest research. This often involves revisions of previously accepted data. For example, radiocarbon tests support very different datings for the crossing of the Bering Strait and the southward penetration into the Americas than had prevailed a generation ago, but one should be cautioned that much of the nonorganic objects uncovered lack evidence either of being man-made or of any links to human occupation. The extensive current publication programs of the writings of American statesmen are providing massive documentation of the authorship and dates of state papers, in some cases correcting previous information. We now know that John Jay wrote a first draft of the "Olive Branch Petition," whose final version has been correctly attributed to John Dickinson, while the latter's authorship of the "Declaration of the Causes and Necessities of Taking Up Arms" must now be shared with Jefferson, as Dr. Julian P. Boyd has conclusively demonstrated. Long-accepted birth dates for persons born in such different centuries as Peter Stuyvesant, Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington Carver have been revised on the basis of recent discoveries. This Sixth Edition incorporates the latest findings of *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970* (1975) brought up to date by the annual *Statistical Abstract*, including census figures for 1980.

For historians there is no quicksand more treacherous than a "first." In most cases "firsts" might more prudently be phrased as "earliest known." Particularly in the field of science and technology must the researcher seeking to establish priority of discovery and invention be on guard against pitfalls. Priority is often a matter of definition. Whether one accepts 1636 or 1786 as the year of the earliest known strike depends on what kind of work stoppage constitutes a

"strike." With this problem in mind the *Encyclopedia* attempts to define terms with some degree of precision. Thus, Royall Tyler's *The Contrast* was the first *American comedy* to be produced by a *professional company*, but it was not the first native play. That distinction must be awarded to Thomas Godfrey's tragedy *The Prince of Parthia*. However, amateur performances of English plays had been given in the colonies as far back as 1665, more than 100 years earlier. Last, where the facts remain in the realm of conjecture (as in the Viking explorations and Polynesian contacts with South America), the *Encyclopedia* indicates how scholars still differ in interpreting the available evidence.

In the years that have elapsed since the preparation of the first edition of the *Encyclopedia*, which appeared in 1953, and in the preparation of five subsequent editions, this enterprise has incurred numerous debts to scholars and librarians, above all to Cass Canfield, who conceived the project. The editor has constantly enlisted his sagacious judgment and been sustained by his unfailing encouragement. Many others at Harper & Row have cooperated beyond the call of duty in the preparation of earlier editions, among them Daniel F. Bradley, Sidney Feinberg, and Beulah W. Hagen, as well as Corona Machemer, Nancy K. MacKenzie, and William B. Monroe. The list of the editor's obligations in the preparation of the previous revised editions and this Sixth Edition is extensive, starting with Henry Steele Commager and the other consulting editors. In the revisions of the opening section, "Original Peopling of the Americas," the editor enlisted the scholarship of Professor Helmut de Terra, formerly of Columbia University. In selections for biographical subjects in the categories of science, invention, and technology, the editor leaned heavily upon the sagacious counsel of Professor I. I. Rabi of Columbia University, and in the previous editions Arthur Dreifuss of Hollywood, Calif., was indispensable in revising and updating the subsections on theater, film, radio, and TV.

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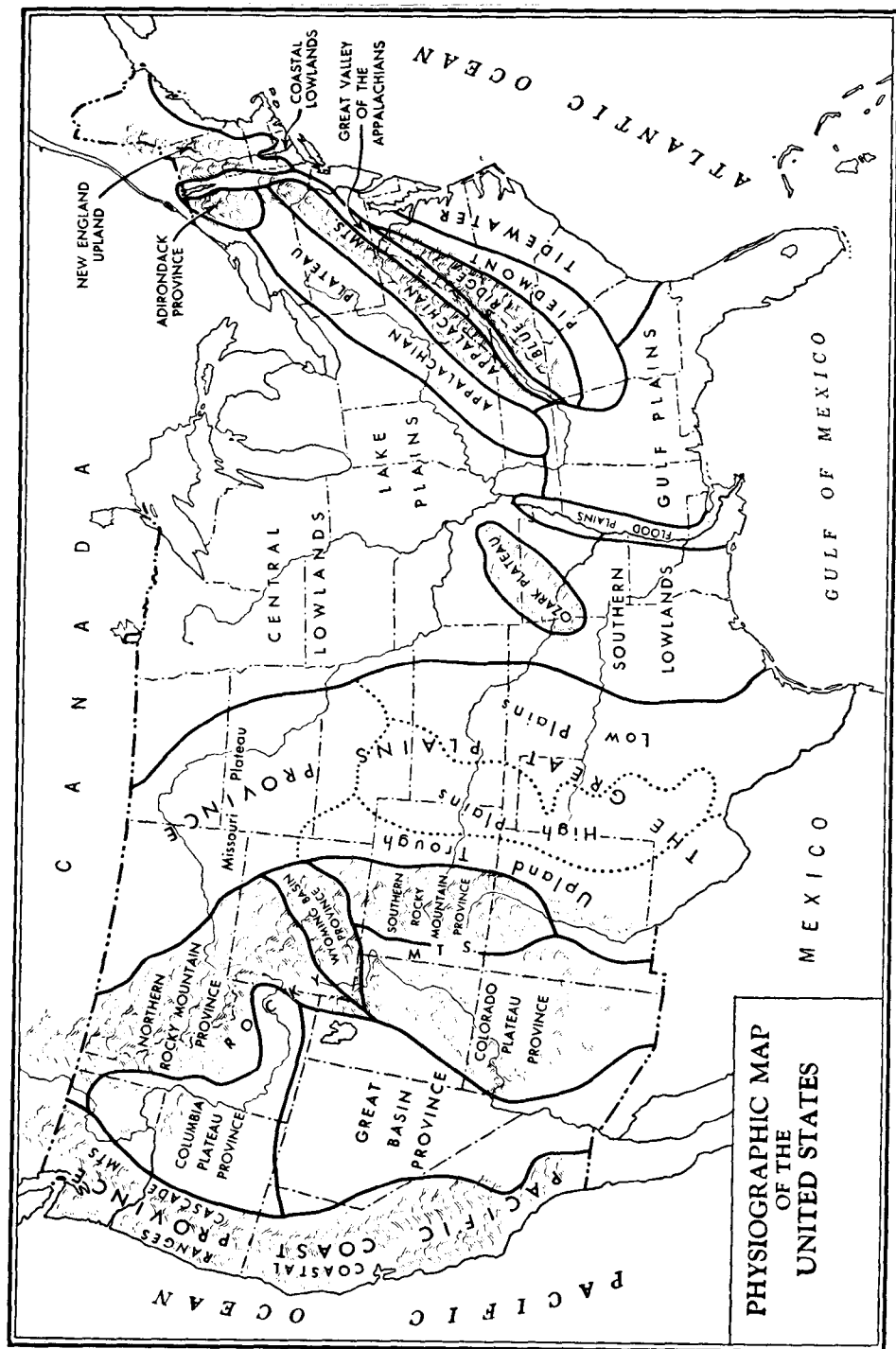
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1

Basic

Chronology





PHYSIOGRAPHIC MAP
OF THE
UNITED STATES

ORIGINAL PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS



As geologic time is counted, man is a latecomer to the New World, but as we record human events his arrival reaches back into remote antiquity, indubitably 10,000 years ago, and possibly as far back as 35,000 B.C. The aborigines of America, truly the first discoverers, came from northeast Asia and moved southward from Alaska to populate both continents. Since the waves of migration that brought the original settlers covered an enormous time span and since their settlements were widely scattered, the aborigines varied considerably in physical and cultural characteristics, speaking many different, often unrelated, languages. These cultural variances were most striking at the time of the Spanish occupation. Thus, the Aztecs in Mexico and the Incas in Peru had, by the time of Columbus, attained a cultural level of sophistication far higher than the North American Indian tribes.

In North America, notably the area that is now the United States, the European settlers and the Indians quickly came into cultural conflict. The white man spurned amalgamation with the Indians, and his farming practices and expansionist proclivities led to the expulsion or annihilation of great numbers of them. Until fairly recent times, when the Indian population has enjoyed some numerical recovery, the susceptibility of the Indians to epidemic diseases, notably smallpox and measles, brought by Europeans, compounded by military defeat and mass transplantation, led to an astonishing rate of depopulation of the native races in North America, extraordinary however disputed the population estimates may be. What happened after 1492 in Meso-America and North America was a demographic disaster with no known parallel in world history. Displaced, defeated, bypassed, and largely ignored, the Indian shared not at all in the affluence of white America.

c.50,000-8000 B.C. ASIATIC ORIGINS. The first human explorers entered this unpopulated region from northern Asia. Russian excavations since 1956 on the Chukchi peninsula at the easterly tip

of Asia confirm the migration of man into America from that point over an ancient land bridge of what is now the Bering Strait. Despite differences among scholars over the exact date, it now appears

that the bulk of the early migration occurred during the last stages of the **Pleistocene glaciation** (the last **Ice Age**). Physical tests based on the half cycle of Carbon 14, which is present in all organic matter and disappears at a known rate, indicate that the centers of population around the edges of the Arctic Ocean, then a warm, open sea, began shifting south in relatively heavy waves, when c.11,000 years ago the Arctic froze over, the Atlantic warmed, and the Ice Age ended (Haynes, 1964). The crossing of Bering Strait and the southward penetration of the Western Hemisphere introduced into this region Mongoloids, traced to southeast and west-central Asia. By 1492 this stock was dominant from Cape Horn to Point Barrow. The very early human remains found in archaeological deposits in the New World all belong to the modern human species, *Homo sapiens*, although physical anthropologists disagree on nomenclature. It is widely agreed that man did not evolve in the New World and that no pre-*Homo sapiens* ever existed here.

LINGUISTIC STOCKS OF AMERICAN INDIANS are highly varied. Their diversity is due to considerable variety in stock and language among the original immigrants for at least several millennia, and to increasing differentiation once the American Indians were in the New World. By conservative estimate some 10 to 12 unrelated linguistic stocks or families have been listed north of the Rio Grande. A few links have been postulated between Eskimo and Chukchee, and the Athapascan and Sino-Tibetan, but in general few linkages between Old and New World linguistic stocks have so far been fully demonstrated, indicating a considerable period of isolation.

c.35,000-8000 B.C. EARLIEST SETTLEMENT. Carbon 14 tests indicate early-man sites in the Americas even prior to the ending of the **Ice Age**, and

range in date from 35,000 to 8000 B.C. The Folsom culture of the Lindenmeier site in Colorado flourished **c.8820 B.C.** (Haynes and Agogino, 1960) and a similar age is suggested for Tepexpan Man from the Valley of Mexico (de Terra, 1958). Responsible opinion does not support the hypothesis of a considerably earlier date for man's migration to the Americas and casts doubt upon radiocarbon dates obtained for a Clovis-type fluted projectile point near Dallas, Tex. (Haynes, 1964); the basin-shaped hearths on Santa Rosa Island off the southern California coast and the Calico site in California (Leakey, 1968) as being truly man-made; and the occurrence near Pueblo, Mex., of fossil bone fragments bearing engravings of animals, possibly both discoveries c.30,000 years old. Despite current scientific controversy over early datings, no doubt exists concerning the widespread dispersal of early man in both Americas 10,000 years ago, as suggested by radiocarbon dates obtained from sites in Chile and southern Argentina. Tools fashioned either of stone or bone and clearly recognizable types were found in direct association with extinct animals such as the mammoth, ground sloth, camel, and other forms which have long since disappeared.

HUMAN REMAINS OF EARLY MIGRATION. Great faunal interchanges took place between northern Asia and North America in the closing stage of the Pleistocene glaciation. Man was only one of the many animals which moved either west into Asia or east into North America during such periods. Accurately recorded ancient skeletal remains of these early migrants are scarce and disputed. The fossil-man discoveries include the bones of the **Minnesota Woman** from the dried-up bed of glacial Lake Agassiz; the **Punin Calvarium** from fossil deposits near Quito, Ecuador; the **Lagoa Santo** skulls from coastal Brazil; the **Vero** and