



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Britain's American colonies broke with the mother country in 1776 and were recognized as the new nation of the United States of America following the Treaty of Paris in 1783. During the 19th and 20th centuries, 37 new states were added to the original 13 as the nation expanded across the North American continent and acquired a number of overseas possessions. The two most traumatic experiences in the nation's history were the Civil War (1861-65), in which a northern Union of states defeated a secessionist Confederacy of 11 southern slave states, and the Great Depression of the 1930s, an economic downturn during which about a quarter of the labor force lost its jobs. Buoyed by victories in World Wars I and II and the end of the Cold War in 1991, the US remains the world's most powerful nation state. Since the end of World War II, the economy has achieved relatively steady growth, low unemployment and inflation, and rapid advances in technology.

Physical Geography

Official Name: United States of America

Region: North America

Size in Square Kilometers: 9,833,517 sq km

Bordering Countries: Mexico and Canada

Physical Features: vast central plain, mountains in west, hills and low mountains in east; rugged mountains and broad river valleys in Alaska; rugged, volcanic topography in Hawaii

Climate: mostly temperate, but tropical in Hawaii and Florida, arctic in Alaska, semiarid in the great plains west of the Mississippi River, and arid in the Great Basin of the southwest; low winter temperatures in the northwest are ameliorated occasionally in January and February by warm chinook winds from the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains

Cultural Geography

Population: 321,368,864 (July 2015 est.)

Ethnic Groups: white 79.96%, black 12.85%, Asian 4.43%, Amerindian and Alaska native 0.97%, native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander 0.18%, two or more races 1.61% (July 2007 estimate)

Official Language: None

Languages Spoken: English 79.2%, Spanish 12.9%, other Indo-European 3.8%, Asian and Pacific island 3.3%, other 0.9% (2011 est.)

Capital: Washington D.C.

Other Major Cities: New York, New York 8.6 million, Los Angeles, California 3.9 million, Chicago, Illinois 2.7 million, Houston 2.2 Million

Average Quality of Life: Above Average

Political Geography

Founded: July 4, 1776

Type of Government: constitutional federal republic

Country's leaders:

President: Barack Obama (President)

Most Powerful Congressman: Paul Ryan (House Speaker)

Business: Bill Gates

Business: Mark Zuckerberg

Actor: Leonardo DiCaprio

Country's Military: 1.46 million Active Personnel

Allies: NATO member states, Israel, Japan, South Korean, India, and Philippines

Enemies: North Korea, Russia, Iran, China, and Countries in which ISIS operates

Economic Geography

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$17.95 trillion (2015 est.)

Natural Resources: coal, copper, lead, molybdenum, phosphates, rare earth elements, uranium, bauxite, gold, iron, mercury, nickel, potash, silver, tungsten, zinc, petroleum, natural gas, timber, arable land. note: the US has the world's largest coal reserves with 491 billion short tons accounting for 27% of the world's total

Currency: Dollars

Major exports and imports:

Exports: agricultural products (soybeans, fruit, corn) 9.2%, industrial supplies (organic chemicals) 26.8%, capital goods (transistors, aircraft, motor vehicle parts, computers, telecommunications equipment) 49.0%, consumer goods (automobiles, medicines) 15.0% (2008 est.)

Imports: agricultural products 4.9%, industrial supplies 32.9% (crude oil 8.2%), capital goods 30.4% (computers, telecommunications equipment, motor vehicle parts, office machines, electric power machinery), consumer goods 31.8% (automobiles, clothing, medicines, furniture, toys) (2008 est.)

Biggest Trading Partners:

Exports: Canada 18.6%, Mexico 15.7%, China 7.7%, Japan 4.2% (2015)

Imports: China 21.5%, Canada 13.2%, Mexico 13.2%, Japan 5.9%, Germany 5.5% (2015)
