

CHAPTER I

The first part of the history of the United States is the story of the early settlers. The first European to set foot on the continent was Christopher Columbus in 1492. He discovered the New World for Spain. The first English colony was established in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia. The Pilgrims arrived in 1620 at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The American Revolution began in 1775 and ended in 1783. The United States became an independent nation. The Constitution was written in 1787. The Civil War was fought from 1861 to 1865. The United States emerged as a world power after World War II.

The second part of the history of the United States is the story of the growth of the nation. The United States expanded its territory westward. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 doubled the size of the country. The Texas Revolution of 1835-1836 led to the Texas Annexation of 1845. The Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 resulted in the acquisition of California and other territories. The United States became a continental power.

The third part of the history of the United States is the story of the struggle for civil rights. The American Civil War (1861-1865) was fought over the issue of slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation (1863) freed the slaves. The Reconstruction era (1865-1877) followed. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s fought for equality for African Americans. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were landmark laws. The United States became a leader in the struggle for human rights.

The fourth part of the history of the United States is the story of the modern era. The United States became a superpower after World War II. The Cold War (1947-1991) was fought between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Vietnam War (1955-1975) was a major conflict. The United States led the world in the space race. The United States became a global leader in science, technology, and culture.