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# From Past to Present

FROM PAST  
TO PRESENT

**S**ince 1850, the United States has continued to grow and change. It has overcome great challenges from abroad and has expanded freedom and opportunity for its citizens at home.



*E pluribus unum*  
("Out of many, one")

—motto on the Seal of the United States

# 1 A Changing Nation

**T**he United States changed greatly in the 1800s. As manufacturing grew, new cities sprang up. Many people moved from farms to cities to work in the factories. Millions of immigrants also came to the United States to find jobs and start new lives in a new country. The greatest change to the United States in the 1800s, however, resulted from the Civil War.

## The End of Slavery

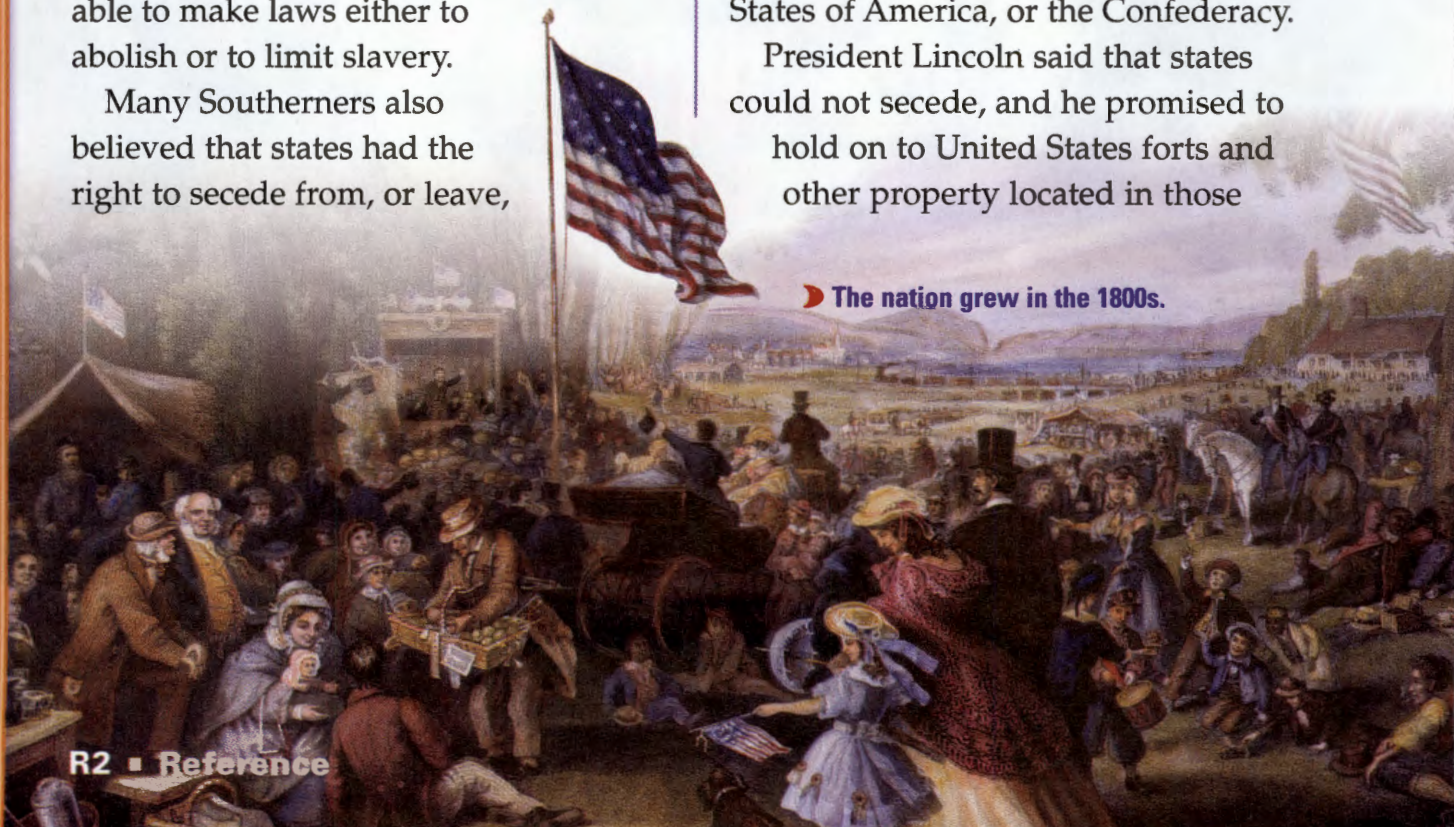
In 1860, people in the United States remained deeply divided over whether slavery should be allowed. Many in the North wanted to see it abolished, while many in the South claimed that their economy depended on it. They felt that the federal government should not be able to make laws either to abolish or to limit slavery.

Many Southerners also believed that states had the right to secede from, or leave,

the Union—the United States—if they chose to do so. Many feared that **Abraham Lincoln**, who was running for President at the time, might outlaw slavery if he were elected. Lincoln won the election, and in the months that followed, eleven Southern states seceded from the Union. They formed a new country they called the Confederate States of America, or the Confederacy.

President Lincoln said that states could not secede, and he promised to hold on to United States forts and other property located in those

► The nation grew in the 1800s.





► Abraham Lincoln met with his cabinet to discuss the Emancipation Proclamation.

states. In April 1861, Confederate soldiers defeated the Union troops stationed at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. This battle marked the beginning of the American Civil War.

During the war, President Lincoln made an important decision. On January 1, 1863, he issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**. This was an order stating that all enslaved people living in parts of the South that were still fighting against the Union would be “then, thenceforward, and forever free.”\*

After four years of hardships, the Civil War finally came to an end in April 1865, when the Confederate army surrendered. The United States was one nation again.

\* Abraham Lincoln. *The Emancipation Proclamation* by John Hope Franklin. Doubleday, 1963.

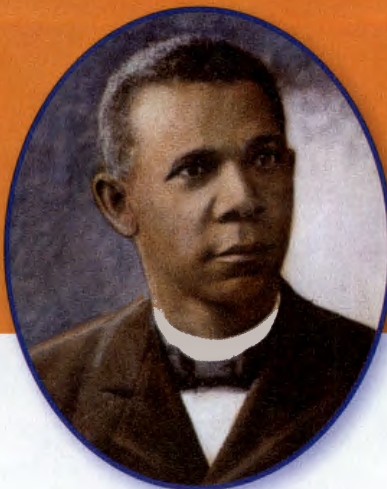
## Citizenship for African Americans

After the Civil War, three amendments were added to the Constitution. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment said that all citizens had equal rights under the law. The Fifteenth Amendment gave African American men the right to vote.

As free citizens, African Americans made many contributions to the nation. They became teachers and scientists, started businesses, and were elected to office. **Hiram Revels** of Mississippi became the first African American to be elected to the United States Senate.



► Hiram Revels



► Booker T. Washington



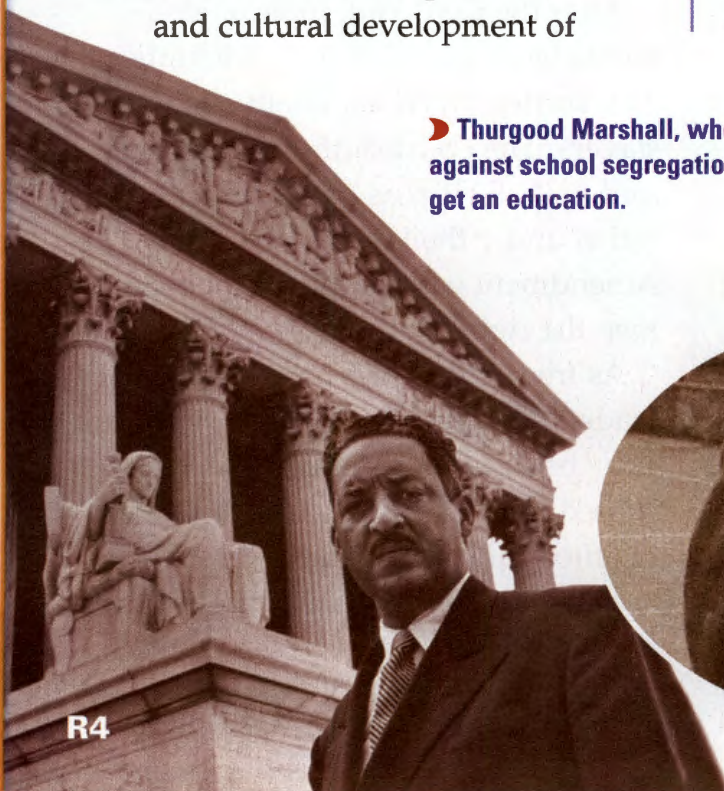
► George Washington Carver

Over time, however, state governments in the South passed laws that made it very difficult, if not impossible, for African Americans to vote. Other new laws led to segregation, or the practice of separating people into different groups based on their race or culture. For example, African Americans had to go to separate schools and ride in separate train cars.

Even with these new hardships, African Americans continued to contribute to the economic, political, and cultural development of

the United States. Among them was **Booker T. Washington**, who helped found the Tuskegee Institute—a trade school for African Americans—in Alabama. **George Washington Carver**, a scientist and teacher at the Tuskegee Institute, helped the South build a stronger economy. He encouraged farmers there to grow peanuts and sweet potatoes, and he invented new ways to use these crops. He and his students showed that more than 300 products could be made from peanuts, including ink, shampoo, and dyes.

► **Thurgood Marshall**, who later became a Supreme Court justice, argued against school segregation so that students, like Linda Brown (right), could get an education.



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## Expanding Freedoms

African Americans continued to work to gain civil rights. Both **Ida B. Wells** and **W. E. B. Du Bois** (doo•BOYS) were leaders in that effort. Wells wrote newspaper articles about violence against African Americans. DuBois's writings called for equality for African Americans, women, and other groups.

Progress toward equal rights was slow, but in 1954, the United States Supreme Court issued an important ruling. In a case called *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Court ruled that an African American girl named **Linda Brown** had the right to attend a public school in Topeka, Kansas. It also ordered the integration of all public schools in the United States. Integration is the inclusion of different people in a group as equals. Courts later ruled that segregation in all public places was also unconstitutional.

African Americans were not the only group that struggled to win the rights promised in the Constitution. Women gained the vote in 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified. In 1924, Congress passed a law making all American Indians in the United States citizens with the right to vote. In 1971, the voting age for all Americans was lowered from 21 to 18.

By the 1970s, new laws were passed saying that employers must treat men and women equally, and that all jobs had to be open to both men and women. In 1975, laws were passed that said Indian tribes could run their own businesses and education programs.

### REVIEW

1. What was the Emancipation Proclamation?
2. Which amendment officially ended slavery in the United States?
3. What did the Court rule in *Brown v. Board of Education*?

► **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, (shown at center) marched in support of new civil rights laws.



## 2

# A Nation of Immigrants



► Most immigrants who came to the United States were searching for a better life.

In the 1850s, writer **Herman Melville** said, “We are not a nation so much as a world.”\* He was saying that the United States is made up of people from many other places. So many people in the United States—or their parents, grandparents, or earlier ancestors—have come from other places that our country is often called a nation of immigrants. These people have contributed to building the United States and making it what it is today.

\*Herman Melville. *Redburn: His First Voyage*. Viking Press, 1983.

## New States, New People

By the late 1800s, the United States was one of the most powerful nations in the world. The country continued to grow as new states were added to the Union. In 1959, the number of states reached 50 when Alaska and Hawaii were admitted.

During this time, the United States added to its land in other ways. As a result of winning the Spanish-American War in 1898, the United States gained control of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine Islands. Both Cuba and the Philippines later became independent countries, but Puerto Rico and Guam remain part of the United States today.

As the United States grew in area, its population also grew. People continued to immigrate to the United States from all parts of the world, and the country became a diverse nation of many races, religions, and national origins.

Immigrants added to the nation’s economic, cultural, and social life. They brought new skills, new languages, and new ways of life to the United States. They farmed and started businesses, helped build railroads and cities, and worked in factories and mines. They became teachers and scientists, writers of literature and music, and artists in the entertainment industry.

Immigrants have also shared their cultures with people born in the United States. Their foods, holidays, musical styles, dances, and games have given Americans a richer life.

## New Waves of Immigrants

Between 1820 and 1920, more than 30 million people immigrated to the United States. Faster ships made crossing the oceans easier, and cheaper fares allowed more people to make the trip.

The newcomers came from all over the world. Among them were thousands of people, including many from China, who came to California during the gold rush. In about 1900, a smaller wave of immigrants came from Asia. Most of these Asian newcomers were from Japan. They arrived at the immigration station at Angel Island, in San Francisco Bay, and settled along the Pacific coast.

People from Mexico and other parts of Latin America also continued to move to the United States in the 1900s. Many of them settled in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California. Many immigrants from Cuba also settled in Florida.

Most immigrants who arrived before 1870 came from northern and western Europe. After 1870, most came from Italy, Greece, Poland, Hungary, Russia, and other countries in southern and eastern Europe. Most of these people arrived at the immigration station on Ellis Island, in New York Harbor.

Beginning in 1886, a new sight greeted immigrants who arrived in New York. It was the Statue of Liberty, a gift to the people of the United States of America from the people of France.

► The first thing many immigrants saw when they arrived in the United States was the Statue of Liberty.





Carved into the base of the Statue of Liberty is the poem "The New Colossus," written by **Emma Lazarus**. It describes how the Statue of Liberty welcomes immigrants to the United States. The poem ends,

**"... Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to  
breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your  
teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless,  
tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden  
door!"\***

Today, the Statue of Liberty is a symbol of the United States. It reminds all Americans of the ideals and many freedoms they share.

\*Emma Lazarus. *Emma Lazarus: Selected Poems and Other Writings*, edited by Gregory Eiselein. Broadview Press, 2002.

## Overcoming Hardships

For many immigrants, coming to the United States meant an opportunity for a better life. Many came to escape hardships in their homelands. In the United States, with hard work and ability, they could hope for a brighter future. For many, it also meant being free for the first time in their lives.

However, coming to the United States involved new hardships. The immigrants had to leave their homes and their friends and relatives behind and move to an unfamiliar land. Often they did not know anyone in their new community. They had to learn a new language as well as ways of doing things, and this took time and effort.

► This photograph from 1900 shows a busy day on Mulberry Street, on the Lower East Side of New York City.





► When they reached the United States many immigrants worked under poor conditions in factories.

Many immigrants faced another kind of hardship in their new country—discrimination. Discrimination is the unfair treatment of people because of their religion, their race, their national origin, or other characteristics that make them different.

During the late 1800s, the United States faced economic hard times. Many businesses closed, and many workers lost their jobs. Some people began to blame their problems on immigrants. They thought that immigrants were taking their jobs, and some immigrants' homes and businesses were attacked.

There was a growing demand for Congress to limit the number of immigrants. Over the next 50 years, Congress passed a series of laws that limited the number of immigrants allowed to enter the United States each year. These laws severely limited or even banned immigration from certain regions of the world, especially Asia.

## Immigration Continues

Immigrants continue to make important contributions to American life. Today, of the more than 290 million people living in the United States, more than 32 million were born in another country. That is more than 1 of every 10 people in the United States.

Most immigrants who came to the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s were from countries in Europe. Today, immigrants come from all over the world, especially from Asia and Latin America. In fact, more than half of all foreign-born people in the United States today are from Latin American countries. About one-fourth are from countries in Asia, such as China, Japan, India, and the Philippines. The rest are from Europe, Africa, Australia, and other areas.

Most people who live in the United States today are either immigrants or the descendants of immigrants.



► Many different cultural celebrations take place across the United States.

Some people's families have been living in the United States for many years. Other immigrants have come only recently. Instead of arriving on ships, as immigrants did in the past, most immigrants today arrive by plane at one of the nation's international airports.

Many Americans continue to take part in the customs and traditions unique to their cultures. Some immigrants still speak the languages of their native countries. Cultural differences among Americans can also be seen in the foods we eat, the music we listen to, and the religious groups we belong to. This adds to the diversity of American culture.

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Although Americans are different from one another, we are united because we also have much in common. We all live under a constitutional democracy, and we are united by basic American ideals—freedom, opportunity, belief in individual rights, and respect for all people and their differences.

### REVIEW

1. How did immigration help make the United States a more diverse nation?
2. How was immigration before 1870 different from immigration after 1870?
3. What hardships did many immigrants face?
4. What unites Americans today?

# 3

## New Challenges to Freedom

**T**he United States entered the twentieth century as a strong nation. During the 1900s, it used its power to defend freedom around the world. World War I was the first of many challenges the United States and its allies faced.

### World War I

In the early 1900s, nations across Europe formed alliances in which the members of each alliance promised to help one another if they were attacked. In southern Europe, Serbia and Austria-Hungary shared a border. On June 28, 1914, a Serb shot and killed Austria-Hungary's Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife. In response, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

The allies of each of the two nations came to its aid. On one side were

the Central Powers, which included Austria-Hungary, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire. On the other side were the Allied Powers, or Allies. They included Serbia, Britain, France, Russia, and Italy.

Most people in the United States wanted to stay out of the war. In 1917, however, the United States joined the war on the side of the Allied Powers. One reason was that Britain and France, who were allies of the United States, needed help. Another reason was that German submarines had begun attacking American ships.

► **Soldiers preparing for World War I stand for inspection at the University of California.**



In asking Congress to declare war on Germany, President **Woodrow Wilson** said, "The world must be made safe for democracy."\*

With more men leaving their jobs to go and fight in the war, there were fewer workers at home. The need for workers helped African Americans and women. Between 1914 and 1919, as part of what became known as the **Great Migration**, half a million African Americans left the South and moved to northern cities to find jobs in factories making war materials. Thousands of women also found jobs in factories.

The United States helped the Allies win the war, which ended in 1918, seventeen months after the first American soldiers arrived in Europe. Before the fighting stopped, however, about 53,000 Americans had been killed.

\*Woodrow Wilson. *The Politics of Woodrow Wilson*, edited by August Heckscher. Harper, 1956.

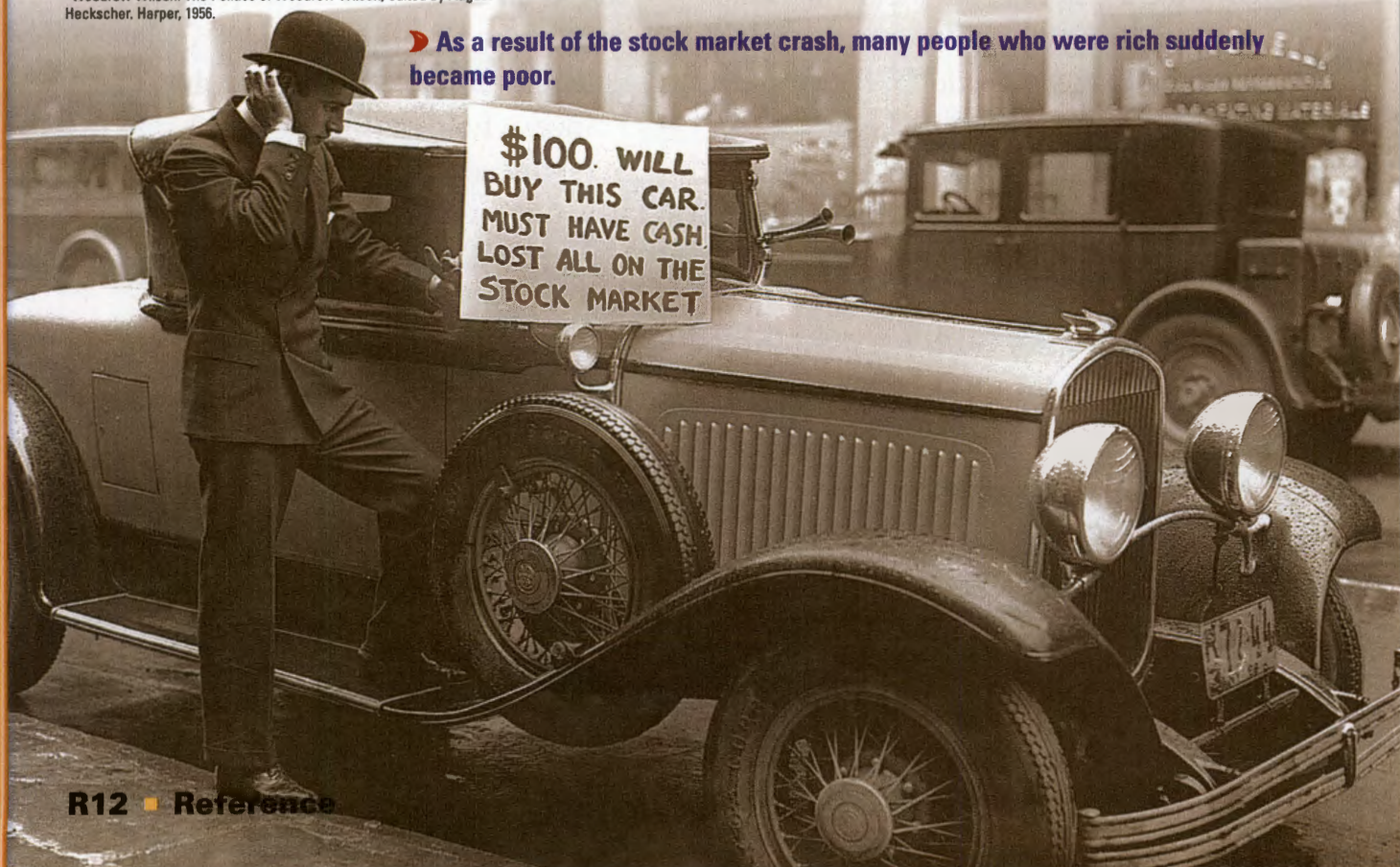
## The Great Depression

A decade after World War I ended, European nations were still struggling to rebuild their economies. The United States, however, was enjoying prosperity.

Many Americans invested in the stock market as a way to make more money. In the stock market, people buy and sell stocks, or shares in businesses. Some people used all of their savings and even borrowed large sums of money to invest.

Beginning in the fall of 1929, some investors decided to take their money out of the stock market. This caused stock prices to fall. As prices fell, more investors decided to sell. Soon panicked stockholders were trying to sell all of their stocks. On October 29, 1929,

► As a result of the stock market crash, many people who were rich suddenly became poor.





FROM PAST TO PRESENT

► American newspapers (above) announce the invasion of Poland by the Germans. The United States did not enter the war until the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.



the stock market crashed, or failed. Nearly everyone who owned stocks lost money.

The stock market crash contributed to a worldwide economic depression. It was a time of widespread unemployment and hunger. One of every four American workers was without a job. This depression, which continued through the 1930s, was so bad that it became known as the **Great Depression**.

In 1932, **Franklin D. Roosevelt** was elected President. He promised the American people a “New Deal,” and he worked with Congress to start many new programs to put people back to work and end the depression. The New Deal gave Americans hope that the country was on the road to better

times. In Europe, however, there was no New Deal and little hope for the future.

## World War II

The Great Depression was especially hard for people in Germany. Germany had agreed to pay large sums of money to the countries it had attacked in World War I, but its economy was in ruins.

In 1933, **Adolf Hitler** became the leader of Germany and ruled as a dictator. Hitler was the leader of a political party in Germany called the National Socialists, or Nazis. He promised to make Germany a powerful country once again and began to rebuild its army.



► The Berlin Wall separated East Germany and West Germany for 28 years.

Hitler and his followers used force against people who disagreed with them. They put many of these people into prisons called concentration camps. Millions of Jews, whom Hitler blamed for Germany's problems, were sent to these camps and killed. This mass murder became known as the **Holocaust**.

German troops began invading neighboring countries, and in 1939, war broke out. Dictators had also ruled Italy and Japan. They, too, invaded nearby countries, and war spread.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese war planes attacked the United States Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The next day, the United States declared war on Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

Germany, Italy, and Japan were known as the Axis powers. The United States joined with the Allies, which included Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. The Allies defeated Germany in May 1945. Japan surrendered in August after the United States dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities. World War II was over.

After the war, the Soviet Union began to pressure eastern European nations to adopt a form of government known as communism. Under communism, the government owns all land and businesses, and people often have little freedom. By 1950, China also had a communist government.

Democratic nations were in constant conflict with the Soviet Union and other communist countries. This hostility between democratic nations and communist nations became known as the **Cold War**. It was mostly a conflict of words, but fighting occurred in places such as Korea and Vietnam.

During the 1980s, the people of eastern Europe rebelled against communism. Eventually, the Soviet Union abandoned communism and broke up into several nations. The Cold War was over. The United States stood alone as the world's most powerful nation and the only superpower.

## New Challenges

At the end of the twentieth century, the United States continued to promote democratic values around the world. However, the nation faced a new kind of danger—terrorism. Terrorism is the deliberate use of violence to further a cause. Terrorists do not fight on behalf of a country. They make surprise attacks on civilians, or non-military people. Bombings and other acts of terrorism have occurred in the United States and around the world.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked, or illegally took control of, four commercial jet airplanes. They flew a plane into each of the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The towers



caught fire and later collapsed. They flew another plane into the Pentagon, the nation's military headquarters, near Washington, D.C. The fourth plane, believed to be headed for the nation's capital, crashed in an empty field in Pennsylvania. All together nearly 3,000 Americans died in the attacks.

Leaders of the United States soon learned that many of the terrorists had been trained in parts of Afghanistan. To end Afghanistan's support of terrorists, the United States and its allies overthrew its rulers.

In 2003, President **George W. Bush** declared that Saddam Hussein, the leader of Iraq, was a danger to the world. Along with some of its allies, the United States defeated the Iraqi army and arrested Hussein.

### REVIEW

1. How did the Great Depression affect Americans?
2. In what ways has terrorism affected the United States?

► More than 40,000 people worked in the World Trade Center buildings. Before their destruction, the towers were the tallest buildings in New York City.



## 4

# New Ideas and New Inventions

**F**rom 1850 to the present, the economy of the United States has changed. New ideas and new inventions have transformed the lives of people in the United States and the rest of the world.

## New Technologies

The late 1800s was a time of invention and progress. The telephone and the electric lightbulb were introduced. Improvements in steelmaking allowed for the building of more railroads and the construction of very large buildings and bridges.

Changes were taking place in transportation, too. When the first cars were built in the early 1900s, they



were too expensive for most people to afford. **Henry Ford** changed that. He developed a system of mass production using an assembly line. Instead of being built one at a time, Ford's cars were assembled, or put together, as they moved past a line of workers. This new technology saved Ford money, allowing him to produce less-expensive cars.

Following Ford's lead, other companies produced goods faster and more cheaply than ever before. The economy now depended more on making goods and less on growing things. Consumers rushed to buy washing machines, vacuum cleaners, radios, and other electrical goods for the home. The first movies were made at this time, too.

In 1946, scientists built the first computer. Computers changed the American economy as much as the assembly line did. They also made

► **Scientists developed special equipment to be used on the moon.**

space travel possible. In 1969, astronaut **Neil Armstrong** became the first person to step foot on the moon. Today, computers allow satellites to orbit Earth, sending and receiving everything from television programs to weather information.



► **New technologies have made it possible to take music almost anywhere.**

anything they need online.

Instead of reading a newspaper or watching the news on TV, people can read the news online or watch video clips. Instead of buying compact discs, music lovers can pay to download songs from online stores to their

## Changing Lives

New technologies continue to change the daily lives of many Americans. Cell phones allow people to communicate wherever they go. Satellites let viewers choose from hundreds of television programs.

The Internet, which links computers around the world, is changing the way people do almost everything. Instead of sending letters through the mail, people can send e-mails that travel around the world in seconds. Instead of driving to a store, consumers can buy nearly

computers. Instead of going to a library, students can do research online. Wireless technology allows people to do all of these things almost anywhere.

These changes have created new kinds of jobs and new ways of working. More people work at home, using their computers to do their jobs. A small business in the United States can set up a Web site and sell its products to people everywhere.

### REVIEW

1. How did the assembly line affect the economy of the United States?
2. How does technology continue to affect the lives of many Americans?

► **Computers allow people to gather and exchange information faster than ever before.**

