



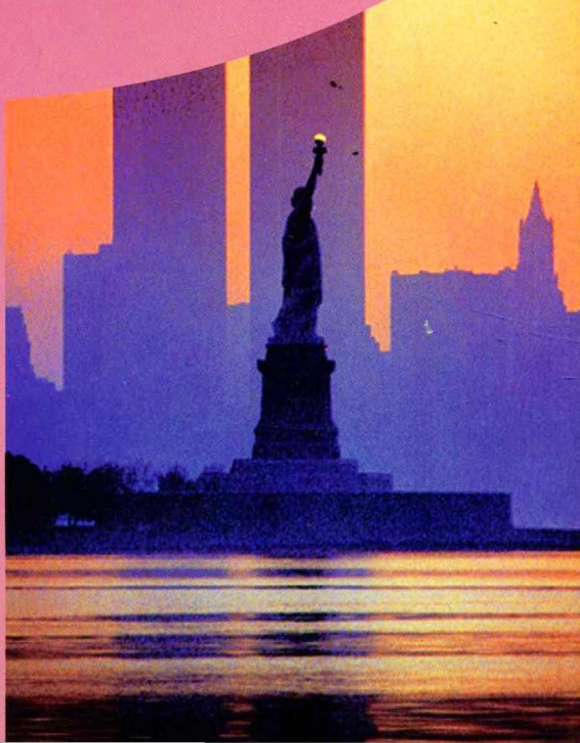
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ENGLISH

A Glimpse into America

Compiled and edited by Le Kim Dung, M.A - Nguyen Thi Ha, M.A



UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION
PUBLISHING HOUSE



HANOI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION
FACULTY OF ENGLISH

A GLIMPSE INTO AMERICA

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(In lần thứ hai)

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CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
PREFACE.....	6
CHAPTER 1: AMERICAN PEOPLE & GEOGRAPHY.....	7
Part I: American People	7
1. Native Americans.....	8
2. The First Anglo Saxon Immigrants to the U.S.....	10
3. People in thirteen colonies	12
4. Unwilling immigrants	14
5. American People from the Independence to the Civil War	15
6. American People in the Roaring Twenties	18
7. Immigration Policy	19
Part II: American Geography	24
1. Thirteen Colonies.....	24
2. The 19 th century expansion	28
3. Present geography.....	29
CHAPTER 2: AMERICAN HOLIDAYS.....	40
I. Introduction	41
II. American holidays that the U.S shares with many countries.....	42
III. Uniquely American holidays	44
IV. Ethnic and Religious Observances	55

CHAPTER 3: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF EDUCATION61

 I. Education overview62

 II. Nursery and Preschool64

 III. Primary and secondary education65

 IV. Post-secondary education70

CHAPTER 4: THE U.S. MASS MEDIA85

 I. Mass media in the US85

 II. Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Press94

CHAPTER 5: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT103

Part I: The Federal Government.....103

 A. The US Constitution103

 B. Three Branches of the government104

 I. The Legislative Branch104

 II. The Executive Branch106

 III. The Judicial Branch.....110

 C. Two-party system.....113

Part II: U.S Presidency.....113

 I. The History of the Presidency113

 II. The office of the President115

References 127

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PREFACE

This book, which has been compiled and edited for students' need of study rather than for the economic purpose, is a topic-based collection of texts, photos, and even video clips (shown during the lectures). The book is divided into five chapters and intended to cover 30 class contact hours in the sixth semester of an eight-semester course for the English majors at Faculty of English (F.O.E), Hanoi National University of Education. The materials used for the book have been collected from various sources. Each chapter (namely American People & Geography, American Holidays, American system of Education, the U.S Media, and the U.S Government) provides the learners with general, essential, useful and up-date information and knowledge about one of the five major aspects of America. Besides, in order to help the students to revise and focus on key features and information, a series of questions are presented at the end of each chapter.

The material selection and the design of this book is done with references to some main course books which are currently in use at different universities in Vietnam, and most important of all, with references to the needs of English majors at F.O.E and their time constraint. The book aims to supply the students with essential information about the United States, whose language they are learning, and thus help them have a deeper insight into the language.

Chapter 1

AMERICAN PEOPLE & GEOGRAPHY

American history is closely related to the history of American People and American geography. Thus, in this chapter we would like to inform you these aspects.

PART I: AMERICAN PEOPLE



Crowd of People at Washington Mall for the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, Washington DC.

The United States has the third-largest population in the world (after China and India). In 1990, population in the United States passed the 250,000,000 mark. Who are the American people?

The most distinctive characteristic of the United States is its people. As nineteenth-

century poet Walt Whitman said, the United States “is not merely a nation but a nation of nations.” People from around the world have come to the United States and influenced its history and culture.

1. Native Americans

Introduction



Long before the white man set foot on American soil, the American Indians, or rather the *Native Americans*, had been living in America. When the Europeans came here, there were probably about 10 million Indians populating America north of present-day Mexico. And they had been living in America for quite some time. It is believed that the first *Native Americans* arrived during the last ice-age, approximately 20,000 - 30,000 years ago through a land-bridge across the Bering Sound, from northeastern Siberia into Alaska. The oldest documented Indian cultures in North America are Sandia (15000 BC), Clovis (12000 BC) and Folsom (8000 BC).

Although it is believed that the Indians originated in Asia, few if any of them came from India. The name "Indian" was first applied to them by Christopher Columbus, who believed mistakenly that the mainland and islands of America were part of the Indies, in Asia.

So, when the Europeans started to arrive in the 16th- and 17th-century they were met by *Native Americans*. The Natives regarded their white-complexioned visitors as something of a marvel, not only for their outlandish dress and beards and winged ships but even more for their wonderful technology - steel knives and swords, fire-belching arquebus and cannon, mirrors, hawkbells and earrings, copper and brass kettles, and so on.

History and Culture of a Proud People

Indian Nations are sovereign governments, recognized in the hundreds of treaties with the U.S. President. The history of this continent's original inhabitants encompasses a broad range of cultures and experiences. American Indians varied greatly from region to region, as did their reactions to European settlement. We should join the journey into the past, experience the present and dream about the future of the American Indian to understand more about the proud people, Native Americans.

When Columbus landed on the island of San Salvador in 1492 he was welcomed by a brown-skinned people whose physical appearance confirmed him in his opinion that he had at last reached India, and whom, therefore, he called *Indios*, Indians, a name which, however mistaken in its first application continued to hold its own, and has long since won general acceptance, except in strictly scientific writing, where the more exact term American is commonly used. As exploration was extended north and south it was found that the same race was spread over the whole continent, from the Arctic shores to Cape Horn, everywhere alike in the main physical characteristics, with the exception of the Eskimo in the extreme North, whose features suggest the Mongolian...

Nowadays, in the Southwest area most of the Native Americans live isolated from the modern world, in reservations. In other areas of the United States most of the Native Americans have chosen to live in cities.

Some reservations are not oriented to tourism, however, most welcome visitors who show respect for their culture, privacy and property. Tribal authorities may pass and enforce their own laws. Visitors are subject to tribal regulations, as well as state and