

CHAPTER 4

Modern United States

ERA: 20th Century America, 1963-1999

PLACE: The United States

PEOPLE: U.S. Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon and the Baby Boomers

THEME: Expansion—increasing in size or scope

CHAPTER FOCUS: American values change and spread.



1974: U.S. President Richard Nixon resigns

1900

1925

1950

1975

1999

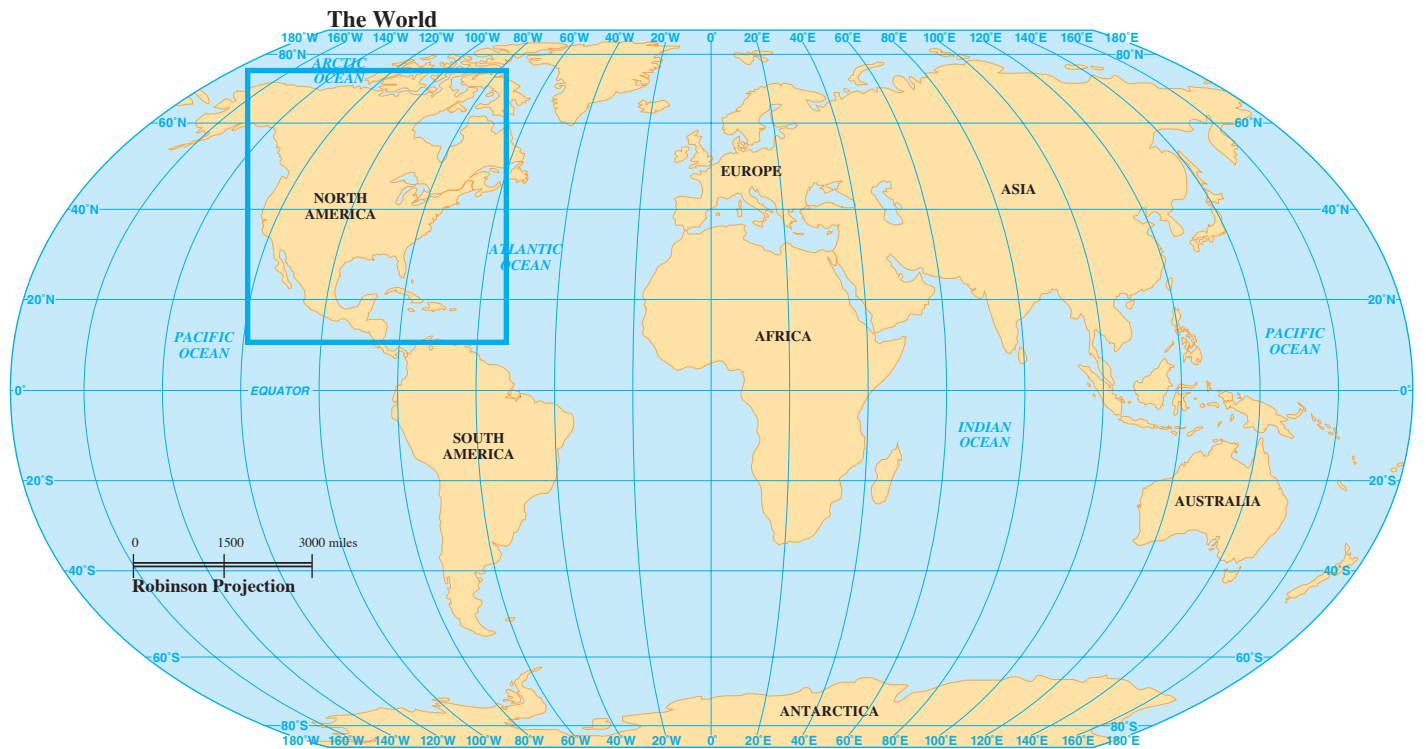
1981: Sandra Day O'Connor becomes a Supreme Court Justice

LINK

In the last chapter, you read about the Cold War and changes in American society after World War II. By the end of the 1960s, America had made many advances. American astronauts landed on the moon. The civil rights movement increased equality and opportunity for black Americans. U.S. military power was used around the world. America continued to be a world leader throughout the rest of the 20th century. America also continued to face crises as it had in the past. And Americans continued to seek reform to make their country and the world a better place. In this chapter, you will read about the changes in American culture during the later part of the 20th century. You also will read how American culture spread outside U.S. borders. As you read, look for ways that America influenced other parts of world.

◀ *The baby boomers influenced the culture of the late 20th century. This picture shows thousands of baby boomers gathered at Woodstock, a musical event held in 1969.*





▼ In 1994, the three largest countries in North America—the U.S., Canada, and Mexico—signed a treaty. This treaty, called the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), made it easier for businesses in these three countries to trade with each other.



▲ GEOGRAPHY IN FOCUS

boundary: a line that marks the border between two areas

The United States has few national boundaries. Only two countries border the U.S.—Canada and Mexico.

The War on Poverty

By the 1960s, the United States was the wealthiest nation in the world. President Johnson believed that a prosperous country needed to help its poor. Johnson announced a War on Poverty. He said:

*It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon or strategy will **suffice**, but we shall not rest until that war is won. The richest Nation on earth can afford to win it. We cannot afford to lose it.*

Johnson created a program called the Great Society. The Great Society was very similar to the New Deal. The government began giving aid to Americans who needed help. Medicare and Medicaid brought medical care to millions of Americans. Food stamps helped the poor buy food. Work study programs helped **low-income** students go to college. Poverty was reduced. Living conditions for America's poor were improved.

low-income: earning little money

suffice: be enough

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Why did President Johnson think we could not afford to lose the War on Poverty?



▲ Lyndon Johnson became president in 1963 when President Kennedy was killed. Only a month after taking office, he started the War on Poverty. This photograph shows President Johnson reading the Medicare bill.

burglary: the act of breaking into a building to steal

opponent: a person against you or your side

resign: to quit a job

scandal: an event or events that cause offense or shame

The Watergate Scandal

Richard Nixon became president after Lyndon Johnson. Many people did not agree with Nixon's policies on the Vietnam War. For this and other reasons, Nixon was worried about getting re-elected in 1972. People working for Nixon planned a **burglary** of their political **opponents'** offices in the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. They wanted to get secret information that could help Nixon win the election. There was a **scandal** when the burglary was connected to the president. It appeared that the president knew about the burglary and helped cover it up. Many people wanted Nixon removed from office. President Nixon **resigned**. He is the only U.S. president who has ever resigned from office.

After the Watergate scandal, many Americans began to distrust the government. People wanted to prevent the government from lying and having secrets. Congress passed new laws to make the government's actions more open to the public. After Watergate, the news media reported more information about the personal lives of government officials.

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Should people trust the government? Why or why not?

▼ *This photograph shows President Nixon waving good-bye on his last day as president, August 9, 1974.*





◀ This picture shows a poster from Woodstock. Woodstock was a counter-culture music event held in 1969. The people who organized Woodstock wanted peaceful solutions to problems. They believed that music could bring people together in peace.

The Baby Boomers

After World War II, the American population grew faster than ever. This is known as the “baby boom.” Americans born between 1945 and 1964 are considered baby boomers. This **generation** made important contributions to American society in the late 20th century.

Many baby boomers wanted to make changes in America. They participated in the civil rights movement to bring about greater equality. They were also part of the “counter-culture.” The counter-culture was a movement against **conformity** and tradition. Members of the counter-culture worked for greater freedom and **tolerance**. The counter-culture helped make American society more tolerant of people who are different.

President Bill Clinton was the first U.S. president born in the baby boom generation. President George W. Bush also is a baby boomer. Today, most of the country’s leaders in government and business come from the baby boom generation. The influence of the baby boomers will continue well into the 21st century.

conformity: fitting in by being like everyone else

generation: people born during the same time period

tolerance: respect for the beliefs of others

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Why do you think that some baby boomers were against conformity and tradition?

access: ability to get something

nomination: the choosing of a person to run in an election

propose: to put forward to be considered

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Why would someone think that certain jobs were not appropriate for women?

Changing Roles for Women

In the last chapter, you learned that many women returned to the traditional roles of wife and mother after World War II. In the later part of the 20th century, however, rising costs led many women to once again work outside the home. Women usually did not earn as much money for the same work as men. They also were kept out of certain jobs that people believed were appropriate only for men. A women's movement began to protest these inequalities. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was **proposed** in 1972. It said:

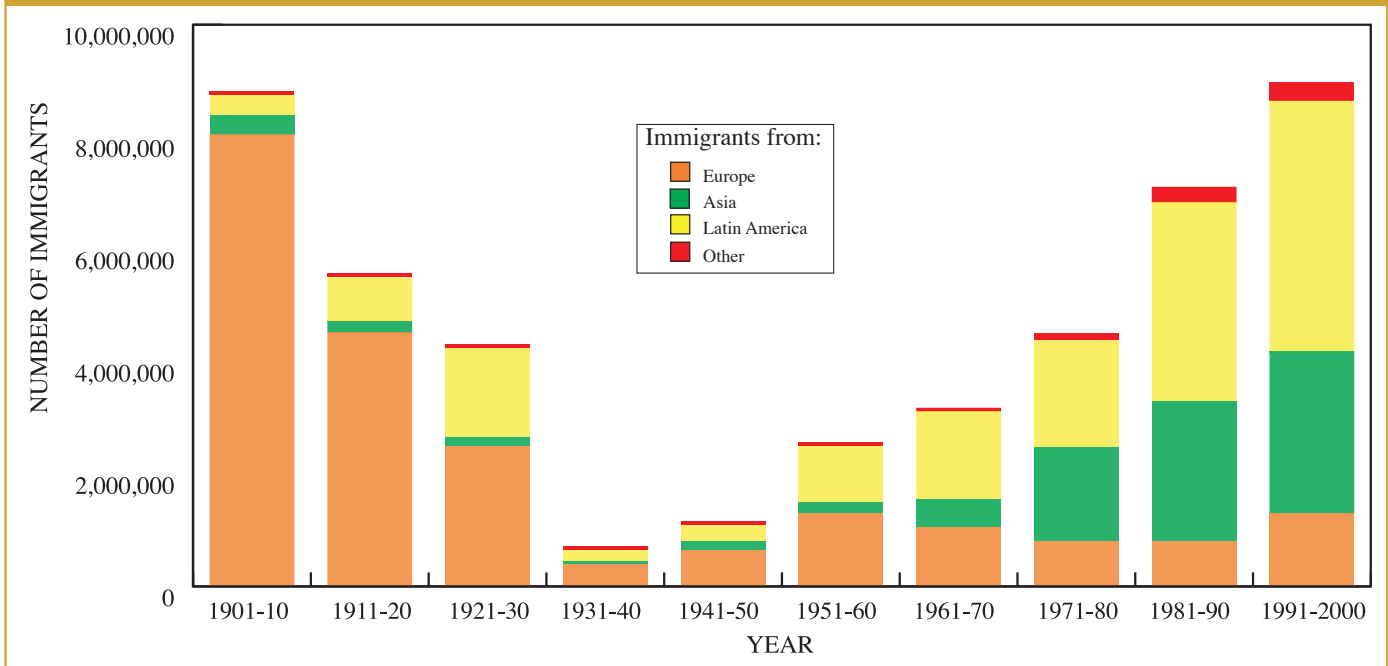
Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

The ERA was not approved by enough states to become part of the Constitution. However, like the civil rights movement, the women's movement had many successes. Laws protecting women from discrimination were passed. Women won greater **access** to jobs and power. The movement did not achieve total equality, but it helped American women make great advances in the workforce.



▲ In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor (left) became the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1984, Geraldine Ferraro (right) became the first woman to win a major political party's **nomination** for vice president.

Immigration to the U.S. in the 20th Century



▲ This graph shows that the number of immigrants increased in the early part of the 20th century, then fell, and then grew again after 1940. The place most immigrants come from has shifted from Europe to Asia and Latin America.

Immigration

The number of immigrants to the U.S. increased during the last decades of the 20th century. In the 1970s, almost 4.5 million immigrants came to the U.S., and more than seven million arrived in the 1980s. During the 1990s, more immigrants came to the U.S. than in any other decade. Since the 1970s, most immigrants have come from Mexico, the Philippines, China, India, and Southeast Asia. Most immigrants have settled in California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, and Illinois.

Not everyone who wants to come to the United States is allowed into the country. Since the 1800s, the U.S. government has limited the number of people who can immigrate. However, laws against illegal immigration have not stopped some people from coming to the U.S. During the 1980s and 1990s, there was a growing concern about the number of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. Immigration has been, and continues to be, a **controversial** issue.

controversial: something that leads to strong disagreement between people

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Do you think the government should limit the number of immigrants who can move to the U.S.? Why or why not?

aspect: part

fast food: restaurant meals served quickly and cheaply

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Why are American movies and television programs so popular in other parts of the world?

American Culture Spreads Around the World

In the later part of the 20th century, more and more **aspects** of American culture spread to other countries. American entertainment had a big influence on the rest of the world. Television and movies from the U.S. became popular in other countries. American music could be heard almost anywhere in the world. American **fast food** also became more common in the rest of the world. For many, any aspect of American culture represented freedom and prosperity.

American political values also spread around the world. Many people wanted the democracy, liberty, and equality found in America. Women in many countries—such as those in the Middle East and Southeast Asia—became particularly interested in the same freedom and opportunities that American women had.



◀ *This restaurant in Baku, Azerbaijan (in western Asia) serves hamburgers, french fries, and soda.*

▶ *The Backstreet Boys, an American music group, became popular around the world in the mid-1990s. This photograph shows the Backstreet Boys performing in Portugal.*



Chapter Summary—Expansion

In this chapter, you read about the changes in America during the last few decades of the 20th century. You learned what the government did to help the poor and elderly. You read about changes in American politics and society. These changes were brought on by a scandal, the baby boomers, and the women’s movement. You also learned why America continued to have a major influence on other parts of the world.

The 20th century was a time of expansion for the United States. It expanded its wealth. It expanded its power. And it expanded the promise of freedom and opportunity. With its wealth, power, and values, the United States made an important impact on the world during the 20th century.

? THINK ABOUT IT:

Will America’s impact continue through the 21st century? Why or why not?



◀ *Many forms of American entertainment became popular in other parts of the world in the late 20th century.*

GLOSSARY

access

industrialized

A

access: (AK-ses) *n.* Ability to get to something.
activist: (AK-tuh-vist) *n.* A person who works to change something they think is wrong.
advance: (ad-VANS) *v.* To improve or progress.
affair: (uh-FAYR) *n.* Business or activities.
airlift: (AYR-lift) *v.* To carry supplies by airplane.
alleviate: (uh-LEE-vee-ayt) *v.* To give relief.
archipelago: (ahr-kuh-PEL-uh-goh) *n.* A large group of islands.
aspect: (AS-pekt) *n.* Part.
assembly line: (uh-SEM-blee liyn) *n.* A way of putting together a product in a factory so that each worker does one small task.
assimilate: (uh-SIM-uh-layt) *v.* To mix into.
assistance: (uh-SIS-tuns) *n.* Help.
automatic: (ah-toh-MAT-ik) *adj.* Done without human effort.

B

blacklist: (BLAK-list) *v.* To not give someone a job because they are accused of being a communist.
blockade: (blah-KAYD) *v.* To prevent goods and people from coming and going.
boundary: (BOWN-dree) *n.* A line that marks the border between two areas.
breadwinner: (BRED-win-ur) *n.* A person who makes money for the family.
burglary: (BUR-gluh-ree) *n.* The act of breaking into a building to steal.

C

century: (SEN-chuh-ree) *n.* 100 years; the 19th century is the time between 1800 and 1899.
challenge: (CHAL-unj) *v.* To say that something is wrong.
channel: (CHAN-ul) *n.* A body of water that connects two seas.
collapse: (kuh-LAPS) *v.* To break down.
communist: (KAWM-yuh-nist) *adj.* Having an economic system in which property and money is owned by the community as a whole.
concentration camp: (kah-suhn-TRAY-shun kamp) *n.* A prison with very bad conditions.
conformity: (kuhn-FOHRM-i-tee) *n.* Fitting in by being like everyone else.
continent: (KAHN-tuh-nunt) *n.* One of the seven major landmasses of the earth—Africa, Antarctica, Asia,

Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.
controversial: (kahn-truh-VUR-shul) *adj.* Something that leads to strong disagreement between people.
corruption: (kuh-RUHP-shun) *n.* Lack of honesty.
crash: (krash) *v.* To quickly drop in price.

D

decade: (DEK-ayd) *n.* 10 years.
depression: (di-PRESH-un) *n.* A period with very slow business activity and a lot of workers without jobs.
detention camp: (di-TEN-shun kamp) *n.* A place where people are held away from their home.
dictator: (DIK-tay-tur) *n.* A ruler that has total control.

E

elderly: (EL-dur-lee) *adj.* Old people.
elected to office: (i-LEKT-ed too AH-fis) *v.* To get a job by winning an election.
estimate: (ES-tuh-mayt) *v.* To take an educated guess.

F

fail: (fayl) *n.* To go out of business.
fast food: (fast food) *n.* Restaurant meals served quickly and cheaply.
fleet: (fleet) *n.* A group of warships.
front: (frunt) *n.* The place where countries at war meet and fight.

G

generation: (jen-uh-RAY-shun) *n.* People born during the same time period.
global: (GLOH-bul) *n.* Across the entire world.
gradual: (GRAJ-oo-ul) *adj.* In slow steps.

H

homemaker: (HOHM-may-kur) *n.* A person who does the housework.

I

illegal: (i-LEE-gul) *adj.* Against the law.
inaugural address: (in-AW-gyuhr-ul) *n.* A speech given by a person becoming president.
income: (IN-kuhm) *n.* Money someone earns.
industrialized: (in-DUHS-tree-uh-liyzed) *adj.* Having an economy based on factory production.

innovation: (in-uh-VAY-shun) *n.* A new idea.
inspire: (in-SPIYR) *v.* To motivate to take action.
insurance: (in-SHOOR-uns) *n.* Protection against losing something.
invade: (in-VAYD) *v.* To enter as an enemy by force.
invest: (in-VEST) *v.* To buy part of a company.

L

leisure: (LEE-shur) *adj.* Free; off from work.
liberate: (LIB-uh-rayt) *v.* To free from control.
low-income: (loh-IN-kum) *adj.* Earning little money.

N

Nazi: (NAHT-see) *n.* A member of the political party that ruled Germany during World War II.
nomination: (nahm-i-NAY-shun) *n.* The choosing of a person to run in an election.
nuclear weapon: (NOO-klee-ur WEH-pun) *n.* A very powerful device that can cause great damage.

O

occupy: (AHK-yoo-piy) *v.* To control.
opponent: (uh-POH-nunt) *n.* A person against you or your side.
oppose: (uh-POHZ) *v.* To disagree or not support.

P

Pacific: (puh-SIF-ik) *n.* The region that includes islands in the Pacific Ocean and countries that border the Pacific Ocean.
point: (point) *n.* An idea.
policy: (PAHL-i-see) *n.* A rule making a plan.
prohibition: (proh-uh-BISH-un) *n.* A rule that forbids something.
pronouncement: (pruh-NOWNS-munt) *n.* A statement made by someone with authority.
propaganda: (prahp-uh-GAN-duh) *n.* Information spread to support a cause.
propose: (pruh-POHZ) *n.* To put forward to be considered.
prosperity: (prah-SPAYR-i-tee) *n.* Success; wealth.

R

ration: (RASH-un) *v.* To limit the amount of something given.
rebuild: (ree-BILD) *v.* To build something that was destroyed.
recruit: (ri-KROOT) *v.* To get people to join.
reform: (ri-FOHRM) *v.* To change something to make it better.
reputation: (rep-yuh-TAY-shun) *n.* What people think of another person.
resign: (ri-ZIYN) *v.* To quit a job.

resist: (ri-ZIST) *v.* To go against.
resolve: (ri-ZAHLV) *v.* To end.

S

satellite: (SAT-uhl-iyt) *n.* An object in space that circles the earth.
scandal: (SKAN-dul) *n.* An event or events that cause offense or shame.
Secretary of State: (SEK-ri-tayr-ee uhv stayt) *n.* The head of American relations with other countries.
security: (si-KYOOR-i-tee) *n.* Protection against problems.
shanty: (SHAN-tee) *n.* A shack built from spare materials.
stand-off: (STAND-awf) *n.* When neither side in a fight will back down.
stock market: (stahk MAHR-kit) *n.* A market where stocks and shares in companies are bought and sold.
subsidy: (SUHB-si-dee) *n.* Payment by the government.
suffice: (suh-FIYS) *v.* To be enough.
supremacy: (suh-PREM-uh-see) *n.* Having the most power.
sweep: (sweep) *v.* To move quickly through.

T

technology: (tek-NAHL-uh-jee) *n.* Electronic products; machines that make things easier to do.
tension: (TEN-shun) *n.* Conflict or hostility.
threat: (thret) *n.* The possibility of harm or trouble.
tolerance: (TAHL-ur-uns) *n.* Respect for the beliefs of others.

U

unemployed: (uhn-em-PLOID) *adj.* Without a job.

W

welfare system: (WEL-fayr) *n.* Support for citizens by the government.
wound: (woond) *n.* An injury.

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