

# Introduction to the History of the United States

## 1. The Founding of the United States

The United States was founded in 1776, following the American Revolutionary War. The Founding Fathers, including George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, drafted the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The Constitution established a federal government with three branches: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, guaranteed individual liberties and limited the power of the federal government.

## 2. The Expansion of the United States

The United States expanded its territory through a series of acquisitions and wars. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 doubled the size of the United States. The Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 resulted in the acquisition of California, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Spanish-American War of 1898 led to the acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. The United States also expanded its influence in the Pacific Ocean through the Open Door Policy and the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.

## 3. The Civil War

The Civil War, fought from 1861 to 1865, was a conflict between the Union and the Confederacy. The war was primarily over the issue of slavery. The Union, led by Abraham Lincoln, ultimately won the war, and slavery was abolished. The Reconstruction era followed, during which the federal government sought to rebuild the South and integrate African Americans into society.