# 1 A Nation is Born

Beginnings-1900

### hy It Matters

UNIT

The history of the United States of America begins with the decision of the thirteen English colonies to rebel against Britain. After emerging victorious from the Revolutionary War, the United States created a new form of government. The new republic struggled to balance federal versus states' rights as the nation grew in size and the North and South divided over the issue of slavery. Unable to reconcile these differences, the country fought the Civil War. After a difficult period of reunification, the United States expanded across the continent and developed its industrial economy. As the twentieth century approached, a modern United States prepared to face a new century. The following resources offer more information about this period in American history.



Declaration of Independence

### **Primary Sources Library**

See pages 974–975 for primary source readings to accompany Unit 1.

Use the American History Primary Source Document Library CD-ROM to find additional primary sources about events in early America.

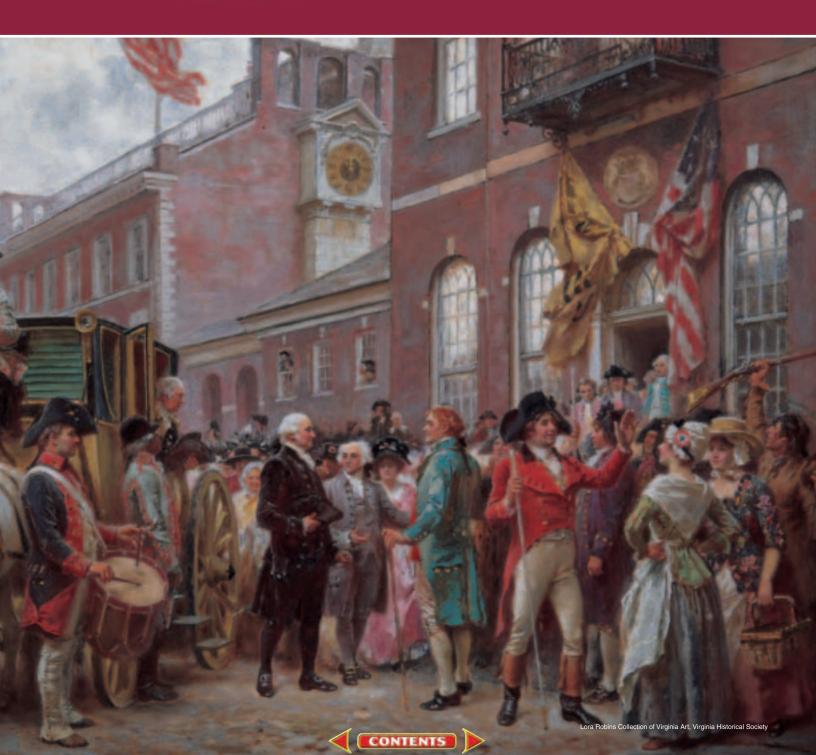
Washington's Inauguration at Independence Hall by Jean Leon Gérôme Ferris, 1793





"The country shall be independent, and we will be satisfied with nothing short of it."

-Samuel Adams, 1774



### CHAPTER

### **Beginnings to 1789**

## **Creating** a Nation

**≈** The Big Ideas **≤** 

### **SECTION 1: Converging Cultures**

**Societies change over time.** European settlers established colonies in lands inhabited by Native Americans and developed new forms of government.

### **SECTION 2: Dissent and Independence**

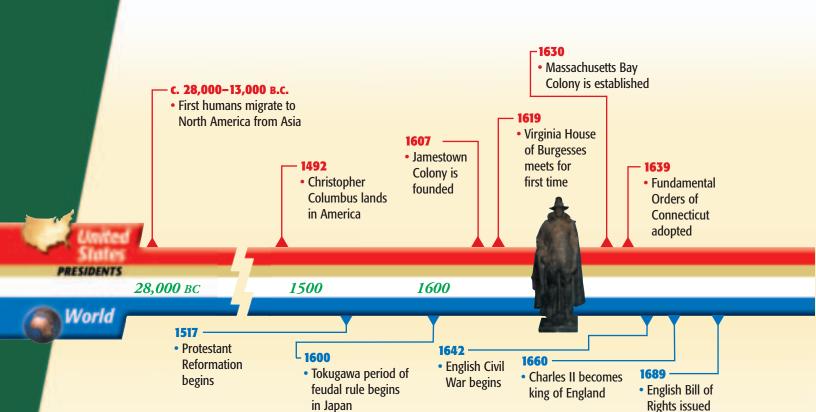
**The quest for equality is eternal.** American colonists developed an independent spirit, began to resent Britain's mercantilist policies and tightening control, and fought a war for independence.

### **SECTION 3: The Constitution**

A written contract between the people and their government can preserve natural rights and allow for change over time. When the Articles of Confederation proved to be too weak, Americans crafted a new constitution based on compromise and flexibility.



**The American Vision: Modern Times Video** The Chapter 1 video, "The Power of the Constitution," discusses one of the nation's most important documents.



CONTENTS



This painting by Dutch artist Adam Willaerts is believed to depict the Plymouth Colony.

### - 1775

 The first shots of the Revolutionary War fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts

### 1776

 Declaration of Independence signed



### 765

 Parliament passes the Stamp Act, triggering protests throughout the colonies

### 1781

- Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown
- Articles of Confederation ratified

### 1787

 Constitutional Convention begins in Philadelphia

Washington 1789–1797



1800

1748

 Montesquieu's Spirit of the Laws published

### 1751

Chinese invade
 Tibet and control
 succession to
 the throne

### 1776

 Adam Smith's treatise The Wealth of Nations published

### - 1787

 Freed Africans found colony in Sierra Leone

### L 1789

French Revolution begins



### **Chapter Overview**

Visit the American Vision:
Modern Times Web site at
tav.mt.glencoe.com and
click on Chapter Overviews—
Chapter 1 to preview chapter
information.

