

UNIT

1

A Nation is Born

Beginnings–1900

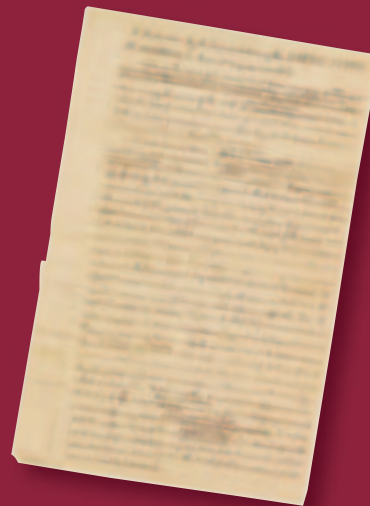
Why It Matters

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.

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.



Declaration of Independence



*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

1

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

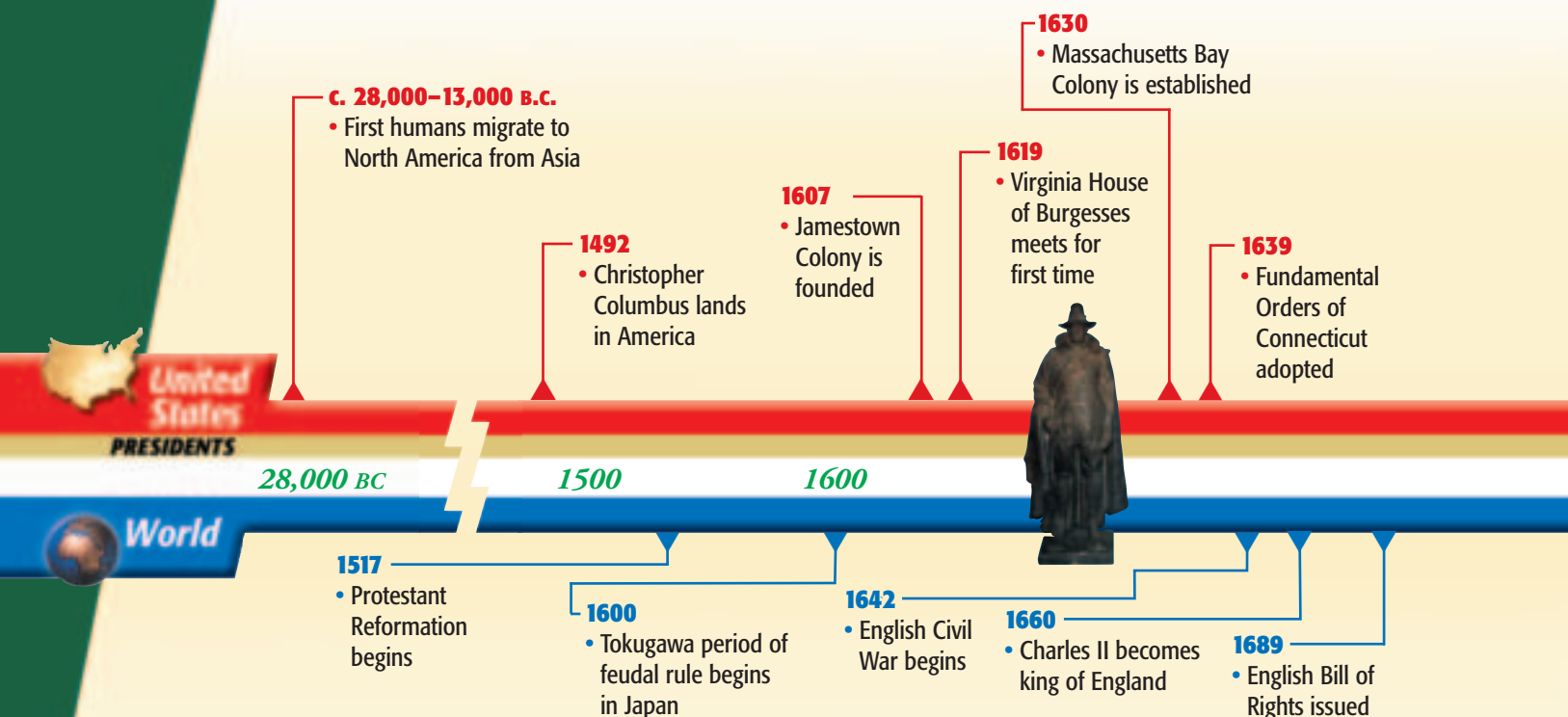
The quest for equality is eternal. American colonists developed an independent spirit, began to resent Britain's mercantilist policies and tightening control, and fought a war for independence.

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.

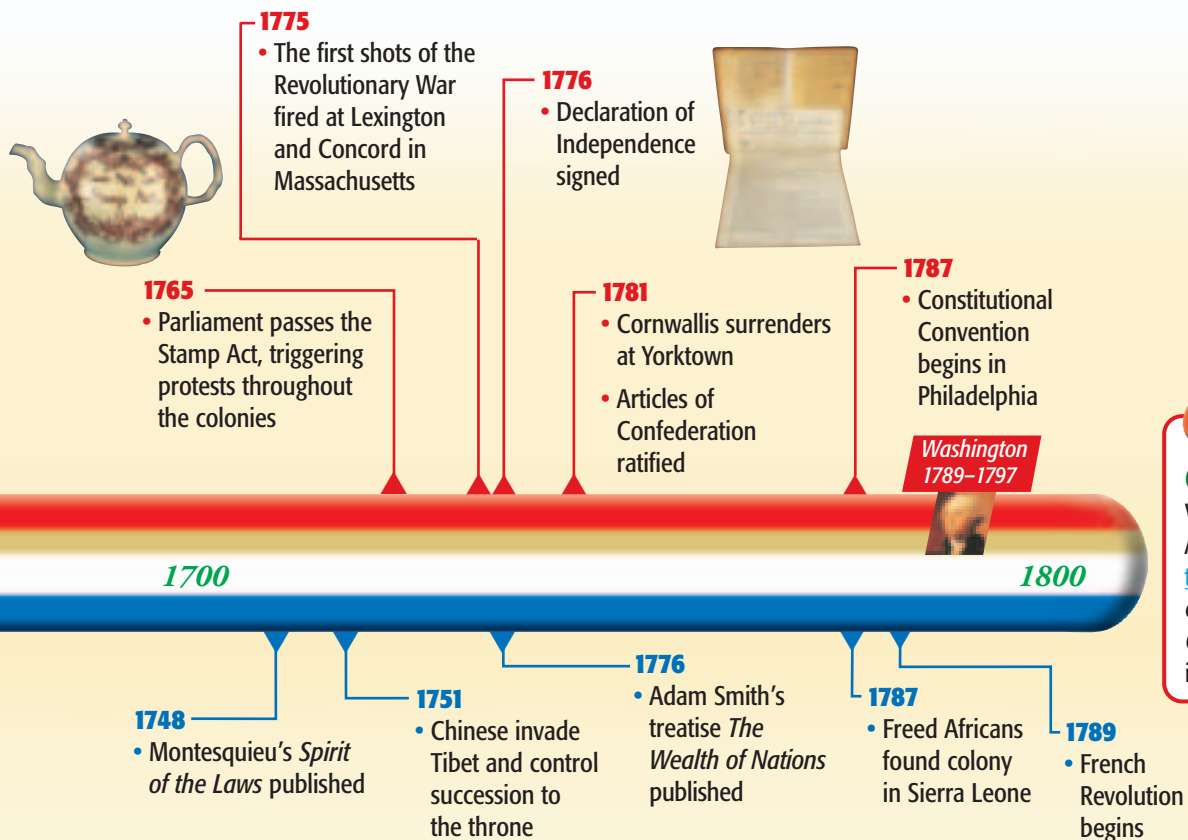


The American Vision: Modern Times Video The Chapter 1 video, "The Power of the Constitution," discusses one of the nation's most important documents.





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



HISTORY Online

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.