FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Abstract:

The founding of the United States of America is a pivotal moment in history that continues to shape the world today. The birth of this nation was marked by a series of events and decisions that ultimately led to the establishment of a new and independent country. From the early settlements and colonization by European powers, to the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War, the founding of America is a complex and fascinating story that has had a lasting impact on global politics, economics, and culture. In this essay, we will explore the key events and figures that played a role in the founding of the United States, and examine how these historical moments continue to influence our world today.

Key words:
- Founding Fathers
- Declaration of Independence
- Revolutionary War
- Constitution
- Bill of Rights
- George Washington
- Thomas Jefferson
- John Adams
- Benjamin Franklin
- Independence Day

The founding of the United States of America is a pivotal moment in history that has had a profound impact on the world. The journey towards independence from British rule was a long and arduous one, marked by significant events and influential figures who played a crucial role in shaping the nation.

The seeds of American independence were sown in the early 18th century, as tensions between the American colonies and the British government began to escalate. The imposition of taxes such as the Stamp Act and the Tea Act, without representation in Parliament, sparked outrage among the colonists and fueled their desire for self-governance.

The turning point came with the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War in 1775, as colonists took up arms against British forces in pursuit of their freedom. The Declaration of Independence, penned by Thomas Jefferson and adopted on July 4, 1776, formalized this desire for independence and laid out the principles upon which the new nation would be founded.

The founding fathers, including George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, played instrumental roles in guiding the fledgling nation through its formative years. Their vision for a democratic republic based on principles of liberty, equality, and justice set the stage for the creation of a new government.

In 1787, delegates from across the newly independent states convened in Philadelphia to draft a new constitution that would serve as the foundation for the United States government. The resulting document established a system of checks and balances between three branches of government – legislative, executive, and judicial – ensuring that no single entity could wield unchecked power.

The ratification of the Constitution in 1788 marked a significant milestone in American history, solidifying the nation's commitment to democratic governance and individual rights. The Bill of Rights, added to the Constitution in 1791, further enshrined key freedoms such as freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

The founding of the United States was not without its challenges or contradictions. The institution of slavery persisted despite lofty ideals espoused by some founding fathers; women were excluded from political participation; and indigenous peoples faced displacement from their ancestral lands. However, these issues would continue to be addressed through social movements and amendments to laws over time.

The history of the lands that became the United States began with the arrival of the first people in the Americas around 15,000 BC. Numerous indigenous cultures formed, and many saw transformations in the 16th century away from more densely populated lifestyles and towards reorganized polities elsewhere. The European colonization of the Americas began in the late 15th century, although most colonies in what would later become the United States were settled after 1600. By the 1760s, the thirteen British colonies contained 2.5 million people and were established along the Atlantic Coast east of the Appalachian Mountains. The Southern Colonies built an agricultural system on slave labor, enslaving millions from Africa for this purpose. After defeating France, the British government imposed a series of taxes, including the Stamp Act of 1765, rejecting the colonists' constitutional argument that new taxes needed their approval. Resistance to these taxes, especially the Boston Tea Party in 1773, led to Parliament issuing punitive laws designed to end self-government. Armed conflict began in Massachusetts in 1775.

Current territories of the United States after the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was given independence in 1994

In 1776, in Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress declared the independence of the colonies as the "United States". Led by General George Washington, it won the Revolutionary War. The peace treaty of 1783 established the borders of the new sovereign state. The Articles of Confederation established a central government, but it was ineffectual at providing stability as it could not collect taxes and had no executive officer. A convention wrote a new Constitution that was adopted in 1789 and a Bill of Rights was added in 1791 to guarantee inalienable rights. With Washington as the first president and Alexander Hamilton his chief adviser, a strong central government was created. Purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803 doubled the size of the United States.

Encouraged by the notion of manifest destiny, the United States expanded to the Pacific Coast. While the nation was large in terms of area, its population in 1790 was only four million. Westward expansion was driven by a quest for inexpensive land for yeoman farmers and slave owners. The expansion of slavery was increasingly controversial and fueled political and constitutional battles, which were resolved by compromises. Slavery was abolished in all states north of the Mason–Dixon line by 1804, but states in the south continued the institution, to support the kinds of large scale agriculture that dominated the southern economy. Precipitated by the election of Abraham Lincoln as president in 1860, the Civil War began as the southern states seceded from the Union to form their own pro-slavery country, the Confederate States of America. The defeat of the Confederates in 1865 led to the abolition of slavery. In the Reconstruction era following the war, legal and voting rights were extended to freed male slaves. The national government emerged much stronger, and gained explicit duty to protect individual rights. However, when white southern Democrats regained their political power in the South in 1877, often by paramilitary suppression of voting, they passed Jim Crow laws to maintain white supremacy, as well as new state constitutions that legalized discrimination based on race and prevented most African Americans from participating in public life.

The United States became the world's leading industrial power at the turn of the 20th century, due to an outburst of entrepreneurship and industrialization and the arrival of millions of immigrant workers and farmers. A national railroad network was completed and large-scale mines and factories were established.

Mass dissatisfaction with corruption, inefficiency, and traditional politics stimulated the Progressive movement, from the 1890s to the 1920s, leading to reforms, including the federal income tax, direct election of Senators, granting of citizenship to many indigenous people, alcohol prohibition, and women's suffrage. Initially neutral during World War I, the United States declared war on Germany in 1917 and funded

the Allied victory the following year. After the prosperous Roaring Twenties, the Wall Street Crash of 1929 marked the onset of the decade-long worldwide Great Depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt implemented his New Deal programs, including relief for the unemployed, support for farmers, social security, and a minimum wage. The New Deal defined modern American liberalism.[1] Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States entered World War II and financed the Allied war effort, and helped defeat Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in the European theater. Its involvement culminated in using newly invented American nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to defeat Imperial Japan in the Pacific War.

The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as rival superpowers in the aftermath of World War II. During the Cold War, the two countries confronted each other indirectly in the arms race, the Space Race, propaganda campaigns, and proxy wars. In the 1960s, in large part due to the strength of the civil rights movement, another wave of social reforms was enacted which enforced the constitutional rights of voting and freedom of movement to African Americans. In the 1980s, Ronald Reagan's presidency realigned American politics towards reductions in taxes and regulations. The Cold War ended when the Soviet Union was dissolved in 1991, leaving the United States as the world's sole superpower. Foreign policy after the Cold War has often focused on many conflicts in the Middle East, especially after the September 11 attacks

In conclusion, the founding of America was a complex process that involved numerous individuals working towards a common goal – establishing a nation built on principles of freedom and democracy. The legacy of this pivotal moment continues to shape American society today as it strives towards fulfilling its promise for all its citizens. The founding of the United States of America was a pivotal moment in history that marked the beginning of a new era of democracy and freedom. The Founding Fathers' vision and dedication to creating a government by the people, for the people, has had a lasting impact on the world. The principles and ideals established during this time continue to shape the nation's identity and serve as a beacon of hope for those seeking liberty and justice. While the founding of the USA was not without its flaws and challenges, it remains an inspiring example of what can be achieved when individuals come together in pursuit of a common goal.

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