



**Otázka:** American History

**Jazyk:** Angličtina

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### I. First settlements

- **40,000 years ago** - The ancestors of **the American Indians** came to America.
- **1000 AD** - **The Vikings** discovered America-the leader LIEF ERICSON
- **12.10. 1492** - **Christopher Columbus** discovered America.
- **1620** - **The Pilgrim Fathers**(sailed on the ship **the MAYFLOWER**)established a colony on the northeast coast
- **1756-1763** - **The French and Indian War**=(the Seven Years War)-brought under British control Canada

### II. Foundation of the USA, **The War of Independence**(1775-1783)

#### **1773The Boston Tea Party**

- British government (George III) started **NEW TAXES** on sugar, coffee, textiles etc. to cover the costs of the war against France-> The colonists refused to pay taxes.
- A group of patriots, dressed as Indians, threw a cargo of British tea into the Boston Harbor.
- 1775-The Americans began the war

#### **The War of Independence (1775-1783)**



-Who? 13 american colonies(leader G.WASHINGTON)

x

Britain

-Reason? New taxes

-Winner? Colonies won and wrote the declaration

#### **4.7.1776: The Declaration of Independence was signed**

-**George Washington** took over the command of the Continental army.

-The Continental Congress began to work as a national government.

-written mainly **by THOMAS JEFFERSON.**

It declared an ideal principle on which the American society was supposed to be based.

#### **1789 The Constitution went into effect.**

-The war ended when Britain signed **the peace treaty in Paris** in 1789. It recognized the USA and granted the Americans independence.

-In 1791 ten amendments were made to it. (**The Bill of Rights** – freedom of religion, a free press, free speech, the right to carry arms, the right to a fair trial, etc.)

-**G. Washington** was **the first president** in office (1789-1797) – **the White House** in Washington D. C.

#### **The Civil War (1861-1865) – between the NORTH and the SOUTH**



### Why?

- social reforms became important, especially **the abolition of SLAVERY**

### Who?

- The north - abolished slavery
- began to develop an industrial economy
- represented by **the Republicans**
- The south - the economy was based on large plantations where slaves were used to grow cotton, tobacco and sugar.
- was represented by **the Democrats**
- The disputes led to the Civil War

### The process:

- The civil war started after **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**(north) was elected President in 1860. He took a strong **anti-slavery stand**
- Southern states protested against Lincoln and left **the Union** and formed **the CONFEDERACY**
- A. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, which granted freedom to all slaves.

### Winner?

- The southern army (Confederates) won some victories

-but later **the Northern Army** (Unionists) won in April **1865**.

**A. Lincoln was assassinated at the Ford Theatre** in Washington shortly after the end of the war.

Results of the war:

- It took 635,000 lives.
- The North came out of the war strong and rich.
- The South lay in ruins.
- The country **became united** once again.
- **Slavery was abolished** in the Constitution in 1865. (The terror of the **Ku Klux Klan** – against the black people)
- The reconstruction of the South was carried out between 1865-1877.

### III. The USA in the **World War I** and the **World War II**

**1917-1918**– the USA in WWI (President **Woodrow Wilson**).

– The US entered the war after German submarines had attacked passenger ships and the discovery of a German plot to involve Mexico in war with the US.

### **The „Roaring Twenties**

– brought large economic prosperity

-It lasted until 1929- **the GREAT DEPRESSION** which started after **the stock market crash** at Wall Street= „**BLACK FRIDAY**“

->In the next decade unemployment was high and poverty widespread.

- The depression lasted till the beginning of the WWII.



In 1933: Franklin Roosevelt was elected President. He introduced a series of measures called the New Deal. It reduced unemployment.

### **1941-1945:** The USA in WWII

The US entered the war after the **Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbour**, the naval base in Hawaii.

- American troops contributed significantly to the invasion of France in 1944 (the operation OVERLORD-General Eisenhower), the defeat of Hitler and the victory over Japan and the Far East.
- President **Harry Truman** ordered to drop **the atomic bomb** on the Japanese cities **Hiroshima** and **Nagasaki** in August **1945**.
- **1945 - The United Nations Organization (the UNO)** was founded with the headquarters in New York.

### **The Post-war Period**

-It was a time of:

- **economic expansion:** The US continued as a world leader in scientific, medical and technological achievements.
- **the space race** (the US had the first man on the Moon in 1969).
- testing **nuclear weapons**.
- **the "Cold War"** against **the Soviet Union**, which ended in 1989 with the collapse of **communism** (Bush and Gorbachev).
- several **war conflicts**: the Korean War (1950-1953)

the Vietnam War (1961-1973)

the Gulf War (1991)

- the 60's social changes and unrest (assassinations of the civil rights leader **M. L.**)



King-1968, President J. F. Kennedy-1963, R. Kennedy-1968).

### The USA in 21st century

- There were military actions in some parts of former **Yugoslavia** in spring 1999, where the US got involved with their modern weapons.
- **The WAR ON TERRORISM** began after the radical Islamic terrorists' attack on New York (**the World Trade Center destruction**) and the Pentagon on **11th September 2001**
- The US and their coalition partners' military actions continued in **IRAQ** against **Saddam Hussein**, who was captured in 2004.
- The aim of the international cooperation is to **prevent another terrorist attack** elsewhere in the world.
- In the elections of 2008 Democrat **Barack Obama** received the most votes. He took office as the 44th president of the USA in January 2009. He was re-elected in 2012.