Chapter 7
Life in the New Nation (1783–1850)
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Section 1: Cultural, Social, and Religious Life

Section 2: Trails to the West

Section 3: The Great Plains and the Southwest
• How did Americans try to advance the culture of the new nation?
• What were some important social changes of the early 1800s?
• How did a renewal of religious faith affect Protestant churches?
Increased prosperity meant that more Americans had the time to devote themselves to scholarship and art. The following men and women were among the contributors to the development of American learning.

- Mercy Otis Warren was a playwright and political activist who urged women to take part in intellectual activities in addition to their responsibilities in the home. Benjamin Rush was a doctor, scientist, and revolutionary. His diverse accomplishments included representing Pennsylvania in the Continental Congress and arguing that there was a physical basis for mental illness.

- Benjamin Banneker was born to parents of mixed African American and white ancestry. Banneker worked as a writer, inventor, mathematician, and astronomer, surveying the site of the nation’s new capital of Washington, D.C.

- Charles Willson Peale was a painter, soldier, politician, scientist, and inventor. The museum that he founded, Peale’s Museum, helped bring the enjoyment of art and science to ordinary citizens.

- Phillis Wheatley was an African American poet born into slavery. Educated by her owners when they recognized her intelligence, Wheatley went on to earn international fame for her poetry.
Education

• Some Americans began to see education as a way to develop a rich and uniquely American culture.
• Although some state constitutions called for free public schools, few state governments provided them, and private academies filled the gap.

Republican Virtues

• Americans wanted their schools to teach republican virtues, the virtues that the American people would need to govern themselves in the new republic.
• Republican virtues included self-reliance, hard work, frugality, harmony, and sacrificing individual needs for the common good.
• Many Americans looked to women to set the standard for republican virtues.
## Social Changes

### Population Growth

In 1780, about 2.7 million people lived in 13 states; by 1830, about 12 million people lived in 24 states. Much of this rise was due to an increase in the number of children born to each family. The large number of children meant that most of the American population was young. In 1820, half of all Americans were under 17 years of age.

### Mobility

The United States was (and remains) a mobile society, one in which people continually move from place to place. Many Americans sought opportunity by moving west. Such movement, however, meant that people often lived in the company of strangers whose social position was not well defined.

### New Rules for Courtship and Marriage

As American society became less ordered and less certain, women began putting more effort into choosing the right marriage partner. Many preferred a long period of courtship before marrying. Marriage was a matter of survival for many women, since few decent employment opportunities existed.
The Second Great Awakening, the powerful religious movement of the early 1800s, began in the backcountry of Kentucky and Tennessee and spread around the nation.

Like the Great Awakening a century earlier, the Second Great Awakening was an evangelical movement which affected Protestant Christians. Evangelical movements emphasize the authority of the Christian Bible, salvation through belief in Jesus, and demonstration of faith.

Evangelical faiths were democratic in character, allowing any believer to achieve salvation and emphasizing the importance of the congregation, or the members of the church over church leaders.

The revival, also called a camp meeting, was popular during this time. At a revival, people were brought back to a religious life by listening to preachers and accepting belief in Jesus.

The revival movement brought women increased power.
New Denominations

- During the Second Great Awakening, many Protestant denominations, or religious subgroups, experienced rapid growth.
- These denominations included the Baptists, Methodists, Unitarians, Mormons, and Millennialists.

African American Worship

- Some African Americans felt unwelcome in predominately white churches. African Americans began starting their own churches, with several joining to found the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816.
Trails to the West

• Why and how did settlers cross the Appalachians?
• How did the United States expand into Florida?
• What factors motivated American migrants bound for the Pacific?
The growing and youthful American population sought new lands, away from the crowded Atlantic Coast, where young families could create bright and secure futures. Many Americans loaded up wagons and headed for trans-Appalachia, the region west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Settlers took several main routes west, including the Cumberland Road. Many of these routes ended in the Ohio Valley.

Most settlers moved as families, although some young men moved alone. Once they settled on a piece of land, families worked hard to clear their land of trees and underbrush, plant crops, and build a log cabin.

Most new settlers were white, but many African Americans also crossed the Appalachians.

By 1830, hundreds of thousands of Americans had settled in the Michigan Territory and the three new states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.
Forcing Native Americans West

The Government’s Removal Plan

• Settlers seeking land west of the Appalachians did not want to compete with Native Americans.
• The government created a plan to pressure Native American groups to move further west to the Louisiana Territory, an area which lay well beyond current settlements and was seen as unfit for farming.

Native American Response

• While most Native American groups peacefully cooperated with federal agents, some fought bitterly against removal.
• Diseases brought by white settlers caused epidemics which reduced the Native American population.
In 1795, the United States had signed the Pinckney Treaty with Spain. According to this treaty, Florida would be controlled by Spain, and the United States would be allowed free use of the Mississippi River through Spanish lands. In addition, both the United States and Spain agreed to control the Native Americans within their borders.

The United States began acquiring parts of Florida in 1810, beginning with West Florida and parts of East Florida.

While Spain was preoccupied with uprisings in its other colonies, the Seminoles, a Native American group living in Florida, increased their raids on settlements in northern Georgia.

General Andrew Jackson, assigned to protect the settlers, thought that the United States should possess Florida. Jackson chose to invade Spanish Florida.
The Seminole Wars

Response to Jackson’s Invasion
• Jackson’s forces quickly swept through Florida. Although Congress threatened to condemn him, most Americans applauded his actions.
• President Monroe and his Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams, decided to make the best of Jackson’s actions.
• Monroe and Adams accused Spain of breaking the Pinckney Treaty by failing to control the Seminoles.

The Adams-Onís Treaty
• Spain was in a poor position to argue with the United States. Spanish representative Luiz de Onís and Adams developed the Adams-Onís Treaty.
• According to this treaty, Spain agreed to cede, or give up, Florida to the United States. The United States agreed to cede its claims to a huge territory in the present-day southwestern United States. The treaty also fixed the boundary between the Louisiana Purchase and Spanish territory in the West.
Some Americans believed that it was their nation’s **manifest destiny**, or obvious or undeniable fate, to extend its reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Several Native American groups had lived in the Oregon Country, the area that stretched from northern California to the southern border of Alaska, for centuries. White settlers known as **mountain men** began trading with these Native Americans in the late 1700s.

The United States, Great Britain, Russia, and Spain all claimed rights to the Oregon Country. Russia and Spain soon gave up their claims, and the United States and Great Britain agreed to joint occupation of the area.

Wagon trains brought thousands of pioneers along the **Oregon Trail**, the main route across the central plains and the Rocky Mountains. The Oregon Trail took settlers through mountain **passes**, low spots that allow travelers to cross over to the other side of a mountain range.

Traders traveled along the Santa Fe Trail to Santa Fe, New Mexico.
The trip westward was often difficult and expensive, and pioneers encountered hardships, such as disease, on their travels. Despite these hardships, many pioneers enjoyed the challenge of moving west, and others sought land to settle on or sell for a profit.

Missionaries traveled west, hoping to convert Native Americans to Christianity. Members of the Mormon faith also moved west, seeking their own land outside the United States. Many Mormons settled in Salt Lake City and other towns in what became the Utah Territory.

The discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill, California, in January 1848 began the California Gold Rush. Thousands of settlers, mostly unmarried men, poured into California.

Towns sprang up overnight where gold was found, and disappeared when most of the gold was extracted. Ghost towns, or abandoned communities, dotted the area.
The Great Plains and the Southwest

• How did the lives of Plains Indians change from the 1500s to the 1800s?
• How did Spain integrate California and the Rio Grande valley into Hispanic North America?
• Why did Texas fight to win its independence from Mexico?
Numerous Native American groups lived on the Great Plains, the vast grassland that lies between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. These included the Crow, the Cheyenne, the Sioux, the Comanche, the Blackfeet, the Apache, the Navajo, the Pawnee, and the Mandan.

Some of these Indians were farmers while others were nomads who continually migrated instead of living permanently in one place.

Two animals, the horse and the bison, were particularly important to the Native Americans of the Great Plains. Horses, introduced to North America as early as the 1500s, helped nomadic groups move from place to place. Bison provided food as well as raw materials to make clothing, utensils, and other equipment.

During the 1700s, some nomadic groups developed into warrior cultures. Agricultural Native Americans, caught between white settlers and their warrior neighbors, suffered greatly from disease and other hardships.
Chapter 7, Section 3

Effects of Mexican Independence

- Mexico gained its independence from Spain through the Treaty of Córdoba, signed on August 24, 1821.
- The new government in Mexico loosened the rules affecting trade with American merchants. As a result, the northern parts of Mexico, including present-day California, New Mexico, and Texas, began trading more with the United States than with other parts of Mexico.
- New policies, however, did not always benefit these territories. In 1833, the Mexican government took control of California’s missions and farmland and handed them over to wealthy, influential Mexican citizens.
- These new Mexican policies allowed the United States to develop strong economic ties with California and New Mexico long before it gained political control over these territories.
Mexico and American Settlers

- Mexican policy in the 1820s encouraged American immigration. By 1830, more Americans than Mexicans lived in Texas.
- As their numbers swelled, Americans demanded more political control. In particular, they wanted slavery to be guaranteed under Mexican law.

Santa Anna and Texan Self-Rule

- In 1833, General Antonio López de Santa Anna took power in Mexico, soon making himself dictator.
- Santa Anna’s actions united Texans behind the cause of self-rule. A clash between settlers and Mexican troops in October 1835 began the Texas War for Independence, with Sam Houston commanding the rebel forces.
Texas Fights for Independence

- At the Battle of the Alamo in December 1835, Santa Anna held rebel forces under siege for 13 days before overcoming the Texan Alamo fortress. Over 100 Texans were killed.
- On March 2, 1836, Texans formally declared the founding of an Independent Republic of Texas. On April 28, with shouts of “Remember the Alamo!” the rebels defeated Santa Anna’s troops and forced him to recognize the new Texan republic shortly thereafter.
- Texans elected Sam Houston as their first president and drafted a constitution modeled on that of the United States. The constitution included a provision which prevented the Texas Congress from interfering with slavery.
- The Texas War for Independence would influence United States relations with Mexico as well as the issue of slavery in America.