

USA in 2026 and history

“Collection of all 193 countries and history”

Language: English



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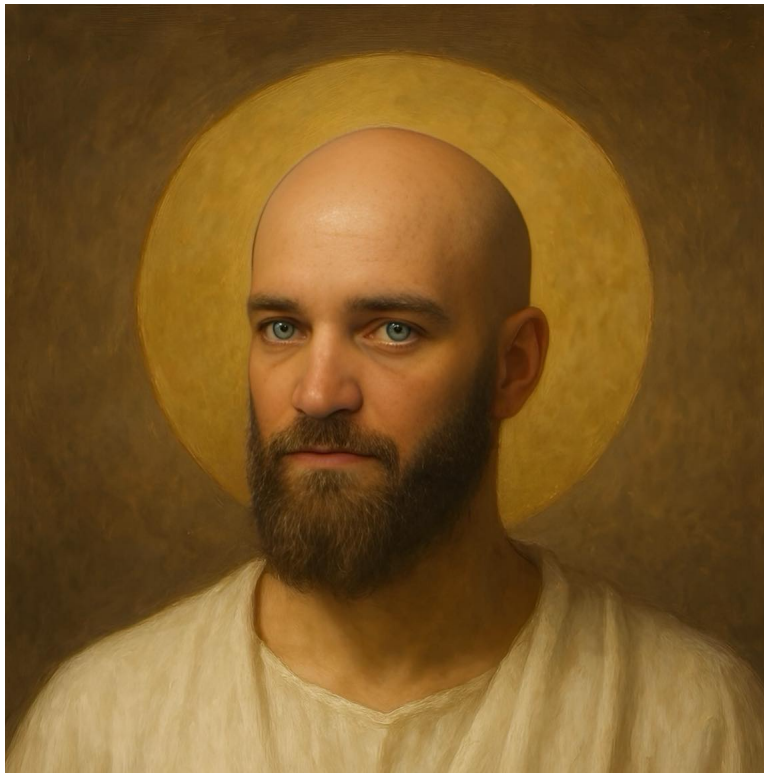
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Introduction:

My name is **Michael Maas**, I am born in the Netherlands and interested in our daily lives, fellow human beings/animals, spirituality, and the world itself.

I decided to start writing books because it is a hobby and passion and started with a **collection of a books of every country (193 countries)**.



Visit my website for more info about me: www.michaelmaas.info

In this book the main topics about the USA are about the:

- **USA and history**
- **USA and politics**
- **USA and culture**
- **The military in USA**

And much more about **USA!**

This is a book of the collection of books of all 193 countries:

USA in 2026 and the history.

The following topics are highlighted:

1. Geography and climate
2. Major cities
3. History and origins
4. Government and political system
5. Economy and key industries
6. Currency and financial structure
7. Education system
8. Healthcare and public health
9. Culture and traditions
10. Languages
11. Religion and beliefs
12. Food and cuisine
13. Festivals and holidays
14. Famous landmarks
15. Natural wonders
16. Transportation and infrastructure
17. Demographics and population
18. Arts, music, and literature
19. Sports
20. Fashion
21. Environment and sustainability
22. Wildlife and biodiversity
23. Tourism and travel tips
24. Technology and innovation
25. Immigration
26. International relations
27. Military and defense
28. Human rights
29. Famous people
30. National flag

1. Geography and climate

The United States, as the third-largest country in the world by total area, has an incredibly **vast and diverse geography** which results in a stunning array of landscapes and nearly every major **global climate type**.

Geographical Regions

The contiguous United States is often broken down into several distinct physical regions, each with its own defining characteristics:

1. The East

- **The Appalachian Mountains:** An ancient, eroded mountain range running from the Northeast down to the Southeast. They are much lower and older than the Rockies.
- **The Atlantic Coastal Plain:** A flat, low-lying region that stretches inland from the Atlantic Ocean, characterized by forests, wetlands, and major estuaries.
- **The Northeast:** Features a rocky coastline, low mountain ranges, and proximity to the Great Lakes.

2. The Interior

- **The Great Plains:** A vast, flat expanse of fertile grassland and prairie that covers the middle of the country, essential for agriculture (often called the "breadbasket").
- **The Mississippi River System:** One of the world's longest river systems, this massive drainage basin is crucial for shipping, agriculture, and water supply across the Central U.S.

3. The West

- **The Rocky Mountains (The Rockies):** A massive, rugged cordillera running north-south through the Western U.S., featuring the highest peaks in the contiguous states and heavily influencing weather patterns.
- **The Intermontane Basins and Plateaus:** Located between the Rockies and the Pacific mountain ranges, this region includes arid

areas like the Great Basin and the high-altitude Colorado Plateau (home to the Grand Canyon).

- **The Pacific Mountain System:** Includes the **Sierra Nevada** and the **Cascade Range**, which create a rain shadow effect, leading to dense forests on the western slopes and deserts on the eastern side.

Extremes of Elevation

- **Highest Point: Denali** (formerly Mount McKinley) in Alaska, at 20,310 feet (6,190 meters).
- **Lowest Point: Badwater Basin** in Death Valley, California, at 282 feet (86 meters) **below sea level**.

Climate Zones

Due to its size, the U.S. contains a remarkable variety of climates, spanning the spectrum from tropical to polar.

Region	Climate Type	Characteristics
Southeast	Humid Subtropical	Hot, humid summers and mild winters; high precipitation year-round; prone to hurricanes along the coast.
Northeast & Midwest	Humid Continental	Four distinct seasons; hot, humid summers and cold, often snowy winters; extreme temperature swings are common in the plains.
Coastal California	Mediterranean	Warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters.
Great Plains (West of 100°W)	Semi-Arid (Steppe)	Low precipitation, leading to grasslands; large differences between daytime and nighttime temperatures.
Southwest (Arizona, Nevada)	Arid (Desert)	Very hot summers with low humidity; mild winters; receives summer monsoonal thunderstorms.

Region	Climate Type	Characteristics
Pacific Northwest	Cool Temperate Oceanic	Mild, wet, and often overcast weather year-round; heavy precipitation in the coastal mountain ranges.
Alaska	Subarctic and Polar	Extremely cold, long winters and short, cool summers; permafrost dominates the far north.
Hawaii & South Florida	Tropical	Warm temperatures year-round with high humidity; distinct wet and dry seasons.

Key Climate Influences

- **Jet Stream:** The polar jet stream heavily influences the weather, bringing large low-pressure systems across the country, especially during the winter.
- **Mountain Ranges:** The Western mountain ranges (Cascades, Sierra Nevada, Rockies) create rain shadows, blocking moisture from reaching the interior states.
- **Gulf of Mexico:** The Gulf is a major source of warm, moist air, which fuels the humid conditions in the Southeast and contributes to severe weather, including thunderstorms and tornadoes, in the central states (Tornado Alley).

2. Major cities

The major cities in the USA are typically defined by their **population, economic influence, and cultural significance**, often measured by the size of their **Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)**, which include the surrounding suburbs and integrated economic regions.

The U.S. features three main types of major cities:

- Global Hubs (the biggest and most influential),
- Regional Powerhouses (large economic and cultural centers)
- Fast-Growing Sunbelt Metros.

The Global Hubs (The Big Three)

These cities consistently rank as the largest and most influential in the U.S. and often globally.

1. New York City, New York (The Big Apple)

- **Population:** Largest city and metropolitan area in the U.S.
- **Significance:** It is the **global center for finance, media, and publishing**. Home to the **headquarters of the United Nations**, Wall Street, and Broadway, it wields immense global influence in business and culture. It boasts the highest population density in the country.

2. Los Angeles, California (L.A., The City of Angels)

- **Population:** Second-largest city and metropolitan area.
- **Significance:** The epicenter of the **global entertainment industry** (Hollywood) and a major center for film, television, music, and digital media. It is also a critical international trade gateway via the **Port of Los Angeles**, making it a powerhouse for global commerce and manufacturing.

3. Chicago, Illinois (The Windy City)

- **Population:** Third-largest city and major metropolitan area in the Midwest.

- **Significance:** Historically an industrial and transportation hub, it remains the **nation's railway hub** and a major center for finance, commerce, and telecommunications. Known for its distinct architecture and vibrant theater/comedy scenes.

Regional Powerhouses and Specialized Centers

These cities anchor major regions and often specialize in specific, high-impact sectors.

4. Washington, D.C. (The Nation's Capital)

- **Significance:** The political capital of the U.S., home to the three branches of the federal government (The White House, Congress, Supreme Court). Its economy revolves around government, international organizations, and related defense and contracting industries.

5. Boston, Massachusetts

- **Significance:** The largest city in New England, known as a world leader in **higher education** (home to Harvard and MIT) and **biotechnology/health care**. It is a city steeped in American history.

6. San Francisco, California (Bay Area)

- **Significance:** While the city proper is smaller in population, the broader San Francisco **Bay Area** (including Silicon Valley) is the **global center of technology and innovation**, housing the headquarters of major tech companies like Google, Apple, and Meta.

7. Seattle, Washington

- **Significance:** A major port city and a rapidly growing hub for technology, aerospace, and global trade. Home to giants like Amazon and Microsoft (nearby in Redmond), as well as Boeing and Starbucks.

The Fast-Growing Sunbelt Metros

Cities in the South and Southwest (**Sunbelt**) have seen the fastest population and economic growth over the last few decades, often ranking high on city-proper population lists.

- **Houston, Texas (Space City):** A major hub for the **energy industry** (oil and gas), home to the NASA Johnson Space Center, and the world-renowned Texas Medical Center.
- **Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas (DFW Metroplex):** A rapidly expanding hub for corporate headquarters, finance, and logistics. It has a diversified economy and is a major inland port.
- **Phoenix, Arizona (The Valley of the Sun):** A sprawling, large city and one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the country. Its economy is strong in tech manufacturing, tourism, and real estate.
- **Atlanta, Georgia:** The economic and cultural capital of the Southeast, known for being a major center for transportation (Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport), media (CNN, Turner Broadcasting), and corporate headquarters (Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines).
- **Miami, Florida:** A vital commercial, cultural, and financial link between the U.S. and **Latin America**. Its economy is driven by international trade, finance, and tourism.

3. History and origins

The history of the United States spans from the initial settlement of indigenous peoples tens of thousands of years ago to the establishment of the modern republic.

The nation's formal origins, however, are rooted in the **Thirteen Colonies** of Great Britain and the eventual war for independence.

Indigenous Peoples and European Exploration

Early Inhabitants

The land that became the U.S. was inhabited by various **Indigenous peoples** for over thousands of years, having migrated from North Asia.

These groups formed diverse, complex societies such as the Mississippian cultures in the Midwest and the Ancestral Puebloans in the Southwest.

Their populations were tragically decimated by European diseases and conflicts following contact.

European Claims

European exploration began in the late 15th century.

- **Spain** established the first permanent European settlement in the continental U.S. at **St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565**, and also claimed vast areas of the Southwest.
- **England** focused on the Eastern Seaboard, establishing the first successful English colony at **Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607**. The arrival of the **Pilgrims** at Plymouth in 1620 marked the beginning of New England settlement.

The Thirteen Colonies (1607–1763)

Over the next century and a half, the British established **Thirteen Colonies** along the Atlantic coast, each developing distinct characteristics:

- **New England Colonies:** Founded primarily by Puritan settlers for religious freedom; relied on commerce, shipping, and small-scale farming.
- **Middle Colonies:** Highly diverse (Dutch, Swedish, English Quakers); known as the "breadbasket" for their fertile lands and focus on trade.
- **Southern Colonies:** Built an economy heavily dependent on cash crops (tobacco, rice, indigo) and the labor of **enslaved Africans**, whose bondage was a foundational element of the region's prosperity.

The colonies were largely self-governing under a system of **salutary neglect** by the British Crown until the 1760s.

The American Revolution (1765–1783)

The relationship between Great Britain and the colonies deteriorated rapidly following the **French and Indian War** (1754–1763).

Causes of Conflict

Britain imposed a series of unpopular taxes and regulations to repay its massive war debt, famously arguing for "**taxation without representation**" since the colonists had no elected members in the British Parliament. Key acts that sparked outrage included:

- The **Stamp Act** (1765)
- The **Townshend Acts** (1767)
- The **Intolerable Acts** (1774), which followed the **Boston Tea Party** of 1773.

War and Independence

1. **First Shots:** The American Revolutionary War began with the **Battles of Lexington and Concord** in April 1775.

2. **Declaration:** On **July 4, 1776**, the Second Continental Congress adopted the **Declaration of Independence**, which proclaimed that the colonies were now free and independent states.
3. **Victory:** Led by General **George Washington**, the Continental Army, with crucial military and financial support from **France** and other European nations, defeated the British. American independence was formally recognized by the **Treaty of Paris in 1783**.

Founding the Nation

Early Government

The first government was established under the **Articles of Confederation** (ratified 1781), which created a weak central government and soon proved ineffective.

The Constitution

To address the failures of the Articles, delegates convened the **Constitutional Convention** in 1787. They drafted the **U.S. Constitution**, establishing a strong federal republic based on the principles of **separation of powers** (Legislative, Executive, Judicial) and **federalism**. It was ratified in 1788 and remains the world's oldest and longest-standing written national constitution.

- **1789: George Washington** was inaugurated as the first President of the United States.
- **1791:** The **Bill of Rights** (the first ten amendments) was added to guarantee fundamental individual freedoms, such as free speech, religion, and the right to due process.

The founding of the U.S. launched a new era characterized by **westward expansion** and the ongoing, complex struggle to fulfill the ideals of liberty and equality expressed in the founding documents.

4. Government and political system

5. Economy and key industries
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