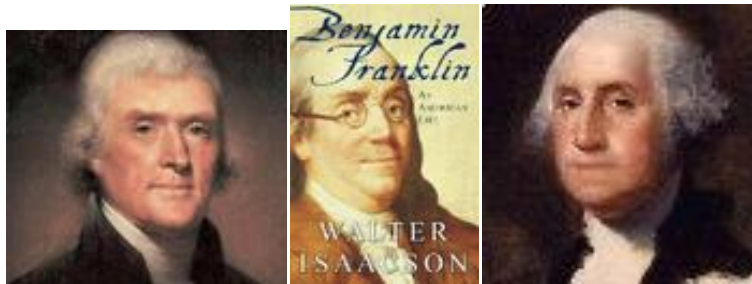


Lecture 7

War for Independence. American Revolution



By the middle of the 18th century North America was no longer a series of isolated imperial outposts inhabited by Englishmen. By 1750 there were thirteen British colonies, competing with the French ones. In 1749 the French sent an expedition down the Ohio River to claim the land in the Mississippi basin for Louis XV. The British government responded by organizing an elaborate offensive against the French. The Seven Years' War ended in the expulsion of France from North America and stirred a wave of patriotism among the English population in America. Colonials cheered when the Treaty of Paris (1763) gave England control over all of North America east of the Mississippi.

After the French war Great Britain rose to the heights of national power and prestige. At the same time the costly seven-year struggle severely strained Britain's treasury and pointed up glaring differences of interests between England and Americans who felt much less dependent on the mother country. The colonies had become quite different and no longer wanted to be seen as extensions of England. The controversy between England and the colonies after 1763 revolved around the laws affecting the settlement of the West, colonial trade, currency, taxes, courts of justice and legislative assembly.

The British Prime Minister George Grenville was determined to make the American colonies realize their obligations to the Empire. He introduced a series of new administrative and financial programs for America: the Quartering

Act (1765) demanded colonials to furnish shelter and provisions for the English troops. The Currency Act of 1764 extended an earlier edict against making colonial money legal. A New Sugar and Molasses Act in 1764 put a duty on the goods shipped to the colonies. Besides sugar taxes were put upon silk and wine. In 1765 Stamp Act laid taxes on all printed items such as paper, licenses, newspapers, playing cards and even college diplomas. To show that the tax had been paid, a stamp seller put a stamp on the paper.

The answer in colonies was boycott against the importation of British goods. The first political action - the Congress toward Stamp Act took place in New York. After more than two weeks of debate at the Congress the representatives of nine colonies issued a declaration of rights and grievances that stated that colonies could be taxed constitutionally only by their own legislatures. In 1766 an Organization "Sons of Liberty" was created in New York, and together with other organizations it broadened the base of the resistance movement. They urged citizens not to buy imported goods. Even American women, who had traditionally remained outside of politics, joined the resistance movement. In towns throughout America young women calling themselves Daughters of Liberation sat publicly at their spinning wheels all day boycotting English cloth, eating only American food and drinking American herbal tea.

In March 1770 British redcoats who had been sent to enforce certain British Acts clashed with colonial civilians. Five men were killed and six wounded. The incident was later known as "The Boston massacre When the uproar in America reached Britain, the British Parliament repealed all the duties except the tea tax, but most basic sources of discontent remained.. The Americans felt angry upon the presence of unnecessary troops, the English courts and customs officers.

The East India Company, finding itself in critical financial state, appealed to the British government and was given a monopoly on all tea exported to North America. When three ships loaded with tea came into the port of Boston

in December 16, 1773 American colonists refused to pay the tax and unload the tea. Instead at night a group of 60 men disguised as Indians boarded the ships and dumped the cargo of three hundred forty two chests into the water of the harbor. This event came into American history under the name “The Boston Tea Party”. British King George and Parliament condemned the “Tea Party” as an act of vandalism and advocated legal measures to bring the insurgent colonists into line. Punitive measures were taken. The newly adopted British laws-called by the colonists “Coercive Acts”- closed the port of Boston until the cost of the lost tea was paid for. New British officials were appointed in American colonies, and many more British troops were stationed there.

But the resistance of the colonists continued to grow. In 1774 Americans established so-called Committees of Correspondence, which sent delegates to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Delegates from 12 colonies except Georgia wrote to King George asking to reopen Boston Harbor. American lawyers Thomas Jefferson and James Wilson worked out the rights of Americans and their own legislation. King George did not answer the letter and sent more warships to America. American patriots called on Americans to take up arms to defend their rights. In April 1775 the British regulars at Lexington and Concord (near Boston) were met by armed American volunteers (so-called militia). Their first skirmish proclaimed the beginning of American War for Independence.

The Second Continental Congress, which also convened in Philadelphia, authorized an American army and appointed a young Virginian planter George Washington as its commander-in-chief. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence from the British rule. This famous document drafted by Thomas Jefferson maintained that all men were created equal and proclaimed their rights for life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. The Declaration of Independence was signed in so-called Independence on the wall of which there is still the famous Liberty Bell, which told the people outside about the historical decisions. Independence was inevitable. Many Americans were ready to

die for colonial rights, singing the words from John Dickinson's "Liberty Song": "Come, join hand in hand, brave Americans, all, and rouse your hearts".

The war for Independence lasted for six years and was hard to win. In Great Britain at that time there lived 9 million people, in the American colonies – less than 3 million, 20 percent of which were slaves. Britain had the world's greatest navy and a strong army. The rag-tag groups of irregulars seemed no match for England's military might. Americans had only an ill trained militia and no navy. Yet they had one great advantage – they were fighting at home and for freedom. The colonial militia's successes around Boston in the spring 1775 had contributed to the American myth that British regulars were less effective than the colonials' volunteers. At the same time the British government and its generals made the fatal mistake of underestimating Washington's ragged army seriously. As the war progressed, discipline and experience appeared and though the colonists lost many battles, they learned that they could be beaten but they could not be subdued. The overwhelming triumph of the Americans at Saratoga in October 1777 decided the Revolution. Besides France seeking the revenge to Britain had secretly provided assistance to the rebellious colonies, dispensing goods and finances through a trading company headed by French author Pierre Caron de Beaumarchais.

After the decisive victory of the colonial army at Yorktown in 1781 the British finally laid down their arms. In 1783 the ultimate peace treaty was signed in Paris. Britain recognized American independence and agreed to withdraw all its troops from the American soil. An American flag was raised. The 13 states joined together into a confederation. The citizens of the new country began to call themselves "Americans" and a new nation was born. Congress also worked out a system of adding new states to the original ones.

One of the first tasks facing Americans was the creation of new political institutions to exercise the governmental authority seized from Great Britain. In 1787 a nation-wide meeting (named Convention) in Philadelphia adopted a new Constitution. It established a legislature of two Houses, the House of Representatives in which the places were assigned according to the population and

filled by popular vote, and the Senate where every state was to send two members appointed by state legislature. Centralized executive power was to be effected by Federal Government headed by a President with wide jurisdiction over home and foreign affairs. During January and February 1789 elections took place in the states and soon the new congressmen gathered in New York, the temporary capital. George Washington was unanimously elected the first President of the United States of America.

In 1791 ten amendments were added to the Constitution, known as the “Bill of Rights”, according to which the Federal government guarantees freedom of speech, press, or religion. Yet it is necessary to note that the American Constitution, the first in the world to recognize the rights of white citizens, at the same time confirmed the black people’s slavery. The brutality of the slavery obviously conflicted with the proclaimed ideals of American democracy.

1. Answer the questions.

1. What was the main reason of British – French war?
2. What consequences had the victory of Britain on the relations between American colonies and their mother country?
3. What series of British actions led to the American war for independence?
4. What role did “The Boston Massacre” and the Boston “Tea Party” play in the revolutionary movement?
5. What was the main idea of the “Declaration of Independence” drafted by Thomas Jefferson?
6. How did the revolutionary events develop after the “Declaration of Independence” had been adopted?
7. Which great advantage did American militia have over British soldiers?
8. What were the very first steps of Philadelphia Convention after the decisive victory of the American colonial army?
9. When was the very first president of the USA elected?

2. Find English equivalent to the Russian ones:

Основные события; начало войны; одержать победу; подавить восстание; облагать налогами; приостановить деятельность законодательного органа; отменить пошлины; осуществить план; провести карательные меры; созвать конгресс; провести в жизнь закон; прекратить наступательные операции; предоставить безоговорочную независимость.

3. Render the texts in English:

А) Разрыв колоний с метрополией был предопределен с самого начала, так как ориентация на автономию возникла очень быстро...

Еще задолго до революции в Северной Америке сложилась особая духовная атмосфера, поражающая прибывших за океан европейцев. Это ощущение свободы и больших возможностей для самореализации личности стало важнейшей основой для складывания американской нации. Американская революция, устранившая слабые ростки феодализма в колониях и порвавшая с диктатом метрополий, открыла в конце 18 в. путь для быстрого наращивания потенциала модернизации. Почему же произошло американское чудо? Некоторые исследователи склонны объяснять это тем, что первыми поселенцами были по преимуществу пуритане - носители капиталистического духа. Действительно, преследуемые на родине, английские кальвинисты переселялись в Америку целыми общинами и на первых порах сыграли роль своего рода стержня в экономической, политической и культурной жизни колоний. Но не менее важными были и другие факторы: колонисты принесли с собой демократические традиции, которые веками вырабатывала английская парламентская система.

(Хачатурян В.М. "История мировых цивилизаций")

Б) К концу 18 в. в Американских колониях сложилась очень напряженная и противоречивая обстановка. К этому времени англичане попытались установить более строгий режим в своих колониях. Это вызвало решительный протест американцев. Введение закона о Гербовом сборе вызвала к жизни новые формы демократического движения. В конце 1765-

начале 1766 гг. возникла революционная организация «Сыновья свободы». Они организовали бойкот английских товаров, что привело к провалу закона о Гербовом сборе. Это был новый этап политической борьбы. В мае 1773 г. английский парламент принял так называемый «Чайный закон». Протест против Чайного закона вылился в инцидент, известный в истории страны как «Бостонское чаепитие».

Между тем разрыв с Англией, вооруженное столкновение становились все ближе. Первые вооруженные столкновения между английскими войсками и американскими силами произошли в Ленсингтоне и Конкорде. Три недели спустя после этих событий, 10 мая 1775 г. в Филадельфии открылся Континентальный конгресс. На нем было принято решение о создании регулярной армии. Главнокомандующим был назначен молодой плантатор Джордж Вашингтон.

Историческая наука рассматривает Американскую революцию как революцию, в которой борьба за освобождение от колониальной зависимости переплелась с борьбой за экономические и политические преобразования. Американская революция оказалась тесно связанной с процессом формирования новой нации.

В) Исключительная личность в Американской истории. Джордж Вашингтон.

Среди героев Америки нет человека, равного Джорджу Вашингтону (1732-99). Неутомимый и энергичный вождь, он казался гигантом даже среди той группы окружавших его людей, которых называют создателями и «отцами» США. По словам одного из его современников, Джордж Вашингтон был «первым на войне, первым в мирной жизни и первым в сердцах своих соотечественников».

Вашингтон стяжал бессмертие, сыграв в истории США три важных роли: он командовал Континентальной армией, которая в ходе революционной войны завоевала стране независимость от Великобритании; он был председателем Конвента, который в 1787 году выработал Конституцию США; он был

избран первым президентом США и определил форму и стиль правления нового государства.

До 1775г, когда Вашингтон был избран главнокомандующим Континентальной армией, он занимался главным образом управлением своего поместья в штате Виржиния. Он также был членом законодательного органа самоуправления в колонии - ассамблеи этого штата. Еще ранее он был военным и во время войны с французами и индейскими племенами командовал Вирджинскими силами, находясь в подчинении британскому командованию. Историк и биограф Джеймс Флекснер в предисловии к своей книге «Вашингтон - исключительная личность» пишет, что когда он начал изучать жизнь Вашингтона, перед ним предстал «человек, которому, как и другим, свойственно было ошибаться, человек из плоти и крови, сильный духом, а вовсе не мраморная статуя. Во всей мировой истории немногие из обладающих такой властью так мудро и благоразумно пользовались ею на благо своих соотечественников.

Formation of American Nation

The Independence was extremely important for the formation of American state. The leaders of the new nation believed in their country's uniqueness. The classical republican heritage of Greece and Rome provided a constant source of imitation. The names "president", "Congress", and "Senate" were derived from Latin roots. American writers, artists and architects revived neoclassical style. The capitol building in the newly - built republican center of Washington exemplified this style.

Establishment of a firm economic base was another aim of national development. Iron manufacture in Pennsylvania became the basis of the industrial economy. The shortage of labor caused development of mechanization of the operations and the growth of machine technology. The construction of the first railroads was begun. Congress worked out a system of adding new states to the original 13 ones. It was decided that when the population of any area grew to 60 thousand this area could become a state. Thus five new states were formed from North-west territory: Ohio,

Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Thomas Jefferson became the third president of the United States in 1801 and began to look to the West of the continent to provide land for growing agrarian population. He foresaw the day when Americans would expand to the Pacific coast. In 1798 Spain granted Americans access to the Mississippi and to the port at New Orleans. In 1803 the USA bought 828,000 square miles (2, 144, 000 km²) of French land west of the Mississippi. This deal became known as the Louisiana Purchase, which included the present-day states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota.

T. Jefferson also asked the USA Congress to allocate appropriate funds for the expedition to the Northwest and exploration of the Missouri River and its tributaries. In 1804, President Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore and map the territory, and to find a water route for boats from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. The explorers, guided by an Indian woman Sacagawea, traveled by boat and on horseback from the Mississippi River westward to Oregon and the Pacific Ocean.

In spite of the War of 1812 which the USA fought on the side of France against Britain the American government continued to take steps to expand the territory available for white settlement on the northern frontier. In 1817 federal government forced Indian tribes in Ohio to sell their lands and migrate farther west. In the following years many Indian nations, recognizing the futility of resistance, signed over their territories and left. White settlers rushed westward, and five new western states joined the Union. The US government encouraged people to settle in the territory of Oregon, so that it could claim the land as part of the United States.

The annexation of Texas (the 28-th American state) in 1845 brought ranching into American life. Americans moved across Indiana and Illinois and into the plains as trappers, traders and adventurers, acquiring horses and cattle. This began the range cattle industry in Kansas and Nebraska, which supplied beef and

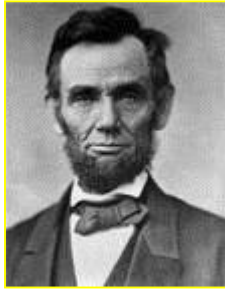
fresh horses to immigrants going west, and also fed mining camps and railroad builders.

Fleeing from political turmoil or economic distress at home **over 4 million** immigrants entered the United States from the 1840s to 1880s. The first organized group of American settlers came to California in 1841. In 1848, after the end of the Mexican War, Mexico ceded California to its powerful neighbor. By mid-century the United States extended its power from the Atlantic to the Pacific, pushing aside all Indian nations and conquering its neighbors.

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 set off the famous “Gold Rush”. “Gold Rush” or “Gold Fever”, dramatically described by famous American writer Jack London, occupies a special place in the USA history. The influence of it both on the region and on the whole nation was enormous. After the news about the gold in California had spread, over 80,000 Americans as well as thousands of foreigners streamed to the West with hope to get rich. Some of the new arrivals traveled to the port of San Francisco. In the following seven years the influx of newcomers continued and by 1856 the state already numbered 300,000. Almost all of them tried to make their fortunes by mining gold and thousands of miners lived in camps separated from their loved ones, alone in vast and hostile wilderness. Very many of such fortune-seekers died because of difficult conditions and illnesses. Law and order were constantly broken down there. Even if a miner “struck it rich” (had success) there were always those who tried to take the gold away: gamblers, outlaws, thieves, and saloon keepers.

The gold rush helped to change California from a frontier area into a state. In 1850 California became the 31 American state. There were some who made fortune by selling goods to the miners. A German businessman Levi Strauss bought strong denim canvas and used it to make pants for the miners. Farmers raised foodstuff to sell to the miners and settlers on their way west. Most of the farmers there were Mormons, who built new towns and grew corn and fruit on large irrigated fields of Southern California where the latest harvesting technology was used.

The Civil War



While the nation was growing and developing, the situation with the Native Americans and black slaves was getting even more complex. The American Revolution gave great impetus to the movement to end slavery by granting freedom to those blacks who served in the armed forces. Following the American Revolution a number of states in the North abolished slavery, and its opponents hoped that emancipation would gradually spread to other areas of the country. But although many northerners opposed slavery, most of them rejected immediate efforts to eradicate it. Age-old prejudices against the Indians and blacks prevented the “white” Americans from considering them as their equals and very many Americans still believed that blacks were basically more inferior to whites. Besides by the Constitution the issue about slavery was left in the hands of the State legislature and Federal Government had no right to abolish it. When Eli Whitney in 1793 invented the machine cleaning cotton of its seeds, the productivity of slave-labor in cotton-growing increased by 50 times and slavery came to be regarded as the mainstay economics in many Southern states. The increased importance of cotton for the South strengthened the hold of slavery in this region.

In 1820 by the Missouri Compromise Act slavery was allowed south of 36°30' but not north of it, but a special Bill in 1854 virtually repealed the Missouri Compromise. The new Fugitive Law compelled the northerners to assist in capturing slaves who had escaped from their owners in the South.

The new Republican Party, which sprang up in 1854, with Abraham Lincoln as one of its chief founders, demanded that slavery be kept within old boundaries set out in 1820. Tremendously important in awakening the nation's consciousness was Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel “Uncle Tom's Cabin” (1852), 300 000 copies of which were sold within the first year and which was soon translated into dozens of foreign languages. Frederick Douglass's autobiography, a poignant account of slave life, was also sold in numerous copies. Later Douglass edited his own newspaper,

consistently urging militant action to bring about the abolition of slavery in the USA.

In 1854 the Republican Party became associated with the name of Abraham Lincoln. The revival of slave controversy stirred him deeply. “If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong”, he stated with the clarity and simplicity of expression for which he later became famous. He was convinced that America could not be divided and said “A home divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this Government cannot endure permanently, half slave, half free”.

In November 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected the sixteenth president of the USA. “Honest Abe”, was a shrewd politician and a person of strong principles. His votes were drawn only from the Northern States. A few days after A. Lincoln’s election the South Carolina convention voted for secession. By February 1861 many other southern states: Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas followed. In February the congress of seceded states formed the Confederate States of America and announced slavery as the corner stone of their constitution.

In April 1861 the civil war between the North and the South actually began. Although abolition of slavery was to be one of its problems, the war was fought not only to destroy slavery but first of all to preserve the union. When the Civil war broke out, the North could expect an easy victory. It had superiority in material resources and more than double the population of the South (20.7 million against 9 million, of which 3,5 were blacks). On the other hand, the South was in some respects very favorably placed for resisting invasion from the North. The country abounded in strong positions for defense, which could be held by a relatively small force while the northerners had to advance long distances, thus exposing their lines of communication to attack. As soldiers, the Southerners started with certain superiority for most of them were accustomed to fighting as a normal and suitable occupation for men. Besides among their leaders there were two men of great military talent – generals Jackson and Lee, while the Northerners lacked such brilliant officers. During the first stages of the war the Union Armies had a lot of failures. But Lincoln himself read books on strategy, scanned military

maps, and outlined plans of campaigns. And his determination soon began to be widely felt and appreciated by common people. The belief that he could be trusted spread quickly and at the end the Northern army acted as an emancipating crusade. Lincoln's greatness of mind and heart were unexcelled. In his famous Gettysburg Address (1863) Lincoln made public his great plans of reconstructing the country on a new, more democratic basis: "The great task remains before us – which this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and the government of the people, by the people, for the people".

Since 1862 the blacks were allowed to join the Northern army and by the end of the war one Northern soldier in eight was black commanded of course by white officers. Soon the segregated troops proved themselves in battle: 38,000 were killed, a rate of loss 40 times higher than among white troops.

In the summer of 1863 General Grant of the North won several decisive battles and cut Tennessee and Arkansas. In a series of fierce battles he lost 60,000 but gained his objectives, destroying everything on its way that might help the Southerners continue the fight.

In 1864 Abraham Lincoln was unanimously renominated President. He gave the closest attention to the final military phase of the war, visiting the army. On April 3, 1865, Grant and Lee had to recognize the futility of further resistance. The confederate soldiers laid down their arms and were allowed to return to their homes in peace. The war lasted four years and cost the nation 600,000 lives but the concept of an indissoluble union won universal acceptance.

A more technically advanced and productive economic system resulted from the war.

The war forced the Government to proclaim emancipation for slave-soldiers fighting for the Union. In 1865 it was followed by the antislavery amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal throughout the whole country. Lincoln's part in this matter was undoubtedly central and the liberation of American slaves will be always associated with his name.

On April 14, 1865 during a theatrical performance in Washington, Lincoln was lethally wounded by a southern conspirator John Booth and early next morning he died. The feat of Abraham Lincoln's life is best summed up in the following lines from the poem by Walt Whitman dedicated to the memory of this great American:

O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip be done,

The ship has weathered every rock; the prize we sought is won.

Shortly before his death, the president endorsed suffrage for "very intelligent" blacks and former black soldiers in the Union army. After Lincoln's assassination president Andrew Johnson continued Lincoln's moderate policies. The 14th Amendment, defining national citizenship so as to include blacks, was passed by Congress in 1866 and was ratified despite rejection of most Southern states.

That Northern victory launched the era of Congressional Reconstruction which lasted 10 years starting with the Reconstruction Acts of 1867. Under that legislation the 11 Confederate states were readmitted to the Union and had to accept the 14th and later the 15th Constitutional Amendments, intended to ensure the civil rights of the black freedmen.

At first Reconstruction of the Union seemed to hold many promises for Black men and women in the South, who were allowed to leave their former owners and move to other states. But in reality the Northern efforts brought **few serious** changes in the status of black people. The laws did not guarantee any social rights of the Blacks. They did not require redistribution of land or wealth and power and only temporarily interrupted white supremacy in the South. Without land and property black freedmen again became dependent on white landowners and worked for them as tenants. Harsh labor-contract laws, imprisonment for minor crimes, work under deplorable conditions for coal, lumber, or railroad-building corporations left most blacks in situation slightly improved from slavery. The political rights of Black people were not secured either. Under the free interpretation of the 15th amendment the freedmen were actually denied suffrage on the grounds that they lacked education and property.

At the same time the white opposition to the Reconstruction in the Southern states was growing. In 1869 the racist organization **Ku-Klux-Klan** added violence to the whites' resistance. Despite federal efforts to protect black people, they were intimidated at the polls, robbed of their earnings, beaten, or murdered. The Klan's purpose was not only economic (to keep the slavery) but also openly political and social, as Klansmen also attacked white philanthropists and schoolteachers who openly showed their support of the Black people. None who helped to raise the status of the blacks was safe.

The K.K.K's actions moved Congress in 1871 to pass two Force acts directed against its violence. These acts permitted the use of martial law against the Klansmen, but for a long time proved unsuccessful in combating the Klan's activities. In 1870s the failure of the Reconstruction became apparent. American reform movements achieved only partial success.

When in 1872 the Amnesty Act was adopted which amnestied the white rebels, terrorism against blacks even widened. Between 1874 and 1876 a series of "race riots" swept across the South. Nighttime visits; whippings, and murder became common phenomena. After that thousands of blacks started migrating to the North, first to Kansas City and then farther North. Thus the nation ended over 16 years of bloody war without establishing real freedom for Black Americans.

The Indian Policy

The fate of the Indian population was even worse. The land-hungry American pioneers stopped at nothing in their drive to the West. In 1830 the **Indian Removal Act** was passed. The terrible implementation of this Act produced one of the darkest chapters in American history. The story of treaties and broken agreements, raids and massacres, was repeated in the settlement of the trans-Mississippi West and the Northwest.

The period after the Civil War was the period of the reservation policy. The blocks of land where Indians were forced to live were usually the poorest barren places where nobody else wanted to live. Extermination of the buffalo herds

eventually led to destruction of the traditional Indian life as they had always lived on the buffalo hunt, and their ritual and worship had been dedicated to its success. The disappearance of the buffalo left the Indians starving, purposeless and hopeless.

By the 20-th century poverty, perpetual hunger, European diseases and hostilities had reduced the Indian population in reservations to only 250000. The Indian civilization was facing extinction. Indians were not allowed to keep their traditional culture, dances, religion and language.

1. Answer the questions.

1. What was the situation with Indians and black slaves in the USA after the Revolution?
2. Why did the abolition issue become particularly stressful in the 1850?
5. How did the southerners regard slavery?
6. How did the secession process develop?
7. What was Abraham Lincoln attitude to slavery?
8. How did the Civil War actually start?
9. How long did the war last?
10. Were the black slaves liberated immediately after the Civil War? What instruments were designed by Southern whites to terrorize blacks?
11. What were the activities of the K. K. K.?
12. Why did black Americans fail to achieve real equality during the term of reconstruction?

2. Render the texts in English:

A). Завоевание независимости было лишь первым шагом, облегчавшим путь к модернизации. Прошло лишь несколько десятилетий после американской революции, как появилась новая проблема, грозившая стране разрушением государственного единства или отходом от завоеваний демократии. Эту проблему создавало растущее противоречие между городским, индустриальным, демократическим Севером и Югом, который по-прежнему

оставался рабовладельческим и сельскохозяйственным. После революции многие политические деятели, в том числе и Дж. Вашингтон, думали, что рабство, запрещенное в северных штатах, постепенно, само собой будет исчезать и на Юге. Однако ход событий был совсем иным.

Выращивание хлопка, сахарного тростника и табака на рынок требовали организованного труда большого количества людей. По мере того, как США расширяли свои границы, присоединяя или осваивая новые территории, Юг поднимал вопрос о распространении рабства на вновь образовавшиеся штаты. Между Севером и Югом вспыхивали острые конфликты из-за штатов Миссури, Канзас, Нью-Мексико. Постепенно все более реальной становилась возможность политического отделения южных штатов. В апреле 1861 г. южные рабовладельческие штаты подняли мятеж (апрель 1861 г.) с целью сохранения рабства и распространения его по всей стране.

В) Приход к власти А. Линкольна – непримиримого противника рабства и тем более его распространения на новые территории – ознаменовал начало давно назревавшей гражданской войны. Военные действия длились с 1861 по 1865 г. и нанесли стране огромный урон. Помимо людских потерь были и потери экономические. Некоторые города (Колумбия, Ричмонд, Атланта) были сожжены до основания, многие заводы и железные дороги разрушены. На первом этапе (1861-1862 гг.) война со стороны Севера велась нерешительно, что привело к ряду военных поражений северян. Второй этап характеризуется более решительными методами ведения войны. В 1864-1865 гг. были разгромлены основные силы южан и в апреле 1865 г. взят город Ричмонд – столица рабовладельческих штатов. Победа Севера сохранила страну как единое государство. Она уничтожила господство плантаторов и рабство (официально отменено 1 января 1863 г.) и создала условия для капиталистической индустриализации и освоения западных земель. На большей части территории США победил фермерский (так называемый американский) путь развития капитализма в сельском хозяйстве. Однако гражданская война не принесла действительной свободы черным рабам,

освобожденным без земли. По стране бродили тысячи бывших невольников, потерявших хозяев и привычное место работы.

В) Индейцы в Америке. В течение двух веков американское правительство вело настоящую войну против “краснокожих”, виноватых только в том, что они занимали прекрасные плодородные земли. Это была долгая кровопролитная война, исход которой был предрешен. Силой и обманом индейцев заставляли подписывать договоры о капитуляции и под вооруженным конвоем отправляли в резервации, на самые бесплодные, не пригодные для жизни человека территории. Это была сознательная политика “расчистки” нового континента от его хозяев.