## Lecture 2. Economy and political structure of the USA.

**Plan:**

1. Inventions and industrial development
2. Political system of the United States of America.
3. The judicial system of the USA.
4. Major political parties.
5. National symbols of the USA.

1. Inventions and industrial development.

The American economy had to be built, as they say, from the ground up. Those immigrants who were not willing to work hard – or work with their hands as well as their heads – seldom did well in the New World. In the beginning there were simply no farms, no houses or factories. Whatever was needed had to be made by the settlers themselves. The tremendous ingenuity and inventiveness of Americans can be traced to this time.

The colonists were left to build their own communities and their own economy. People lived primarily on small farms and were self – sufficient.

Early colonial prosperity was resulted from trapping and trading in furs. Fishing was a primary source of wealth in Massachusetts.

Industry developed as the colonies grew. A variety of specialized sawmills and gristmills appeared. Colonies established shipyards to build fishing fleets and trading vessels. They also built small iron forges. By the 18th century regional pattern of development had become clear: the New England colonies relied on ship-building and sailing to generate wealth; plantations (many used slave labor) in Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas grew tobacco, rice and indigo; and the middle colonies of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware cultivated general crops. Except for slaves, standards of living were generally high.

The rapid economic development following the Civil War laid the groundwork for the modern U.S. industrial economy. An explosion of new discoveries and inventions took place; causing such profound changes that some termed the results a “second industrial revolution” Oil was discovered in western Pennsylvania. The typewriter was developed. Refrigeration railroad cars came into use. The telephone, phonograph and electric light were invented. And by the down of the 20th century cars were replacing carriages and people were flying in airplanes. Parallel to these achievements was the development of the nation’s industrial infrastructure. Coal was found in abundance in the Appalachian Mountains. Large iron mines opened in the Lake Superior region. Mills were built in places where these two important raw materials could be brought together to produce steel. Large copper and silver mines opened, followed by lead mines and cement factories.

As industry grew larger, developed mass-production methods. Fredrick W. Tailor pioneered the field of scientific management in the late 19th century. True mass production was the inspiration of Henry Ford, who in 1913 adopted the moving assembly line, with each worker doing one simple task in the production of automobiles. Ford offered a very generous wage ($5 a day) to his workers, enabling many of them to buy the automobiles they made, helping the industry to expand.

Economy of American states

New England

Over 350 years ago the first settlers arrived from Europe and landed on the East Coast. The eastern part of the of the U.S. was covered with a great forest – one of the largest and densest in the world. The settlers began clearing the forests and sloughing the soil. So the first colonies called New England were founded.

New England comprising six states, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, preserved a great many old Colonial buildings and sights connected with the earliest history of the U.S. The first factories were in New England. They produced cotton cloth, coal, natural gas, oil and, of course, water power has long supplied the North-east with power. Fishing has been important in the North-east. Many towns on the New England coast, Boston, Portland, New Bedford and Gloucester, were early fishing centers.

The Midwest

The Middle West (Midwest) is the heartland of the nation. It includes the Great Lakes industrial belt (the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin) and the central north-western states of the “Farm Belt” (the states of Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota). Chicago, Detroit and other big industrial centers of the Midwest have always been scenes of bitter labor wars, and the big strike of the Chicago workers of 1886 led to the establishment of May Day as the holiday of workers of the whole world.

The Midwest is also the bread-basket of the nation. The land here is fertile and well watered; the summers are warm, the winters – cold. Corn was one of the first crops grown on American farms. The Indians taught the early settlers how to grow it. Farming and dairying are the Midwest leading industries. There is a big supply of raw materials – iron ore, livestock, wheat, timber.

The South

By the word “South” in the U.S.A. they mean the general area south of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi, mainly those states which formed the Confederacy in the Civil War (1861-1865).

The South includes the South Atlantic States (Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida,) and the Central Southeast (Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi).

Travelling through the South you will find mountain peaks, luxurious resort hotels on subtropical beaches and poor cottages, white-pillared mansions and weathered one-room flats. You will undoubtedly hear talk of "southern hospitality", but these southern gentlemen are very polite to white ladies and brutal to colored people. The South is the U.S. center of racism, and before the Civil War it had its own "institution" of slavery, its own way of life where aristocracy ruled over millions of Negro slaves and poor whites.

Due to the mild southern winters the South has a long growing season and year-round green pastures. The South is rich in natural resources. Great supplies of oil and natural gas are helping refinery and chemical industry to develop in the South.

The West

The West of the U.S.A. occupies such states as Montana, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and, of course, California.

The West has vast areas of deserts. Only its three states - California, Oregon and Washington - have good farm lands thanks to enough quantity of water for farming. California, the "Golden State", due to its gold mines, is one of the most important cotton-producing state in the country. And California's farmers grow half of the country's fruits and vegetables.

The centers of the West Coast manufacturing are the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas. Aircraft manufacturing, automobile assembly plants, food processing, oil refining and electronics are important industries here.

Check your comprehension.

1. What territory of the U.S.A. does the Midwest occupy?

2. What states does it include?

3. What are the leading industries of the Midwest?

4. What territories does the South region cover?

## 2. Political system of the United States of America

1. Read the following proper nouns.

the Supreme Court [sju:'pri:m kɔ:t] - Bерxовный суд

Executive Branch [ig'zekjutiv] исполнительная власть

Legislative ['ledzisletiv] - законодательный

Judicial [dzu:'difǝl] судебный

Bill of Rights [bil ǝv raits] - «билль о праваx>>

Commander-in-Chief [ko'ma:ndǝr in tfi:f] - главнокоман дующий

The U.S. Constitution

The U.S. Constitution, proclaimed in 1787, is the supreme law of the country, which protects the rights of all the people living in the United States. The Constitution is based on three main principles. The first one guarantees basic rights - freedom of speech and religion. The second principle tells about a government by the people. The third principle tells about the three branches of the U.S. government, legislative, executive and judicial, that has different powers.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Basic rights | 1. Government   by the people | 1. Separation of powers |
| Freedom of speech | People vote for their representatives | Three branches of government with different powers |
| Freedom of religion |
| Right to have  a trial | People can ask for new laws or changes |
| Right to own property |

The U.S. Constitution includes the Preamble, seven articles and 26 amendments, which help make some changes or add some new things. The first ten amendments are called collectively Bill of Rights.

Preamble

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more, perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The Articles of the Constitution

Article 1. The Congress has many powers. It can decide taxes and make laws about citizenship and about foreign trade. If the U.S. fights with another country, Congress can declare war.

Article II. The President has other powers. He or she is the Commander-in-Chief of the military. The President can choose people to be judges on the Supreme Court; he can choose people to be ambassadors. But the Senate must say okay to these people.

Article III. The Judicial branch has certain powers. The courts can review some laws. If the laws do not agree with the Constitution, the courts can tell Congress to change the laws. The courts listen to problems about protecting the Constitutional rights of the people.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Article | Who | What it does |
| I | Legislative | * makes laws and decides taxes |
| * okays treaties |
| II | Executive | * gives ideas for laws and treaties |
| * is Chief of Army and Navy (President) |
| III | Judicial | * decides if laws are okay (judges) |
| * helps protect people’s rights |
| IV | States | * says all states have a republican form of government |
| * tells each state to respect the laws of another state |
| V |  | * tells how to amend the Constitution |
| VI |  | * says the Constitution is the supreme law |
| VII |  | * tells how to ratify the constitution |

Article IV. States have a republican form of government. States can make some state laws. All states must respect the laws of other states.

Article V. Three-fourths of the states must say okay to an amendment.

Article VI. The Constitution is the supreme law of the U.S. Everyone must follow the Constitution.

Article VII. Three-fourths of the states must say okay to this Constitution.

Check your comprehension.

1. What is the U.S. Constitution?

2. What important items does it include?

3. What powers has the Congress according to the Constitution?

4. What rights has the President?

## 3. The judicial system of the USA.

The judicial system of the United States of America

In the United States there is a dual court system composed of a federal judiciary and 50 states judiciaries. The federal judiciary consists of the Supreme Court and the system of federal courts. The Supreme Court is the highest judicial organ of the U.S.A. It meets in the Supreme Court Building of white marble in Washington, D. C. The Supreme Court is made up of the Chief Justice and eight associate justices. They are all appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. Every judge is appointed for life, or until he chooses to resign. One of the most important duties of the justices is to decide whether laws passed by the Congress agree with the Constitution.

By creating the Supreme Court and authorizing the establishment of other Federal courts, the Constitution created the judicial power, that is the power to hear and decide the two classes of cases – criminal and civil. The jurisdiction of the Federal courts may include cases which concern the interpretation of the Constitution, of treaties between the U.S. and foreign countries. All cases involving a violation of Federal criminal laws are heard in a Federal court. They include cases relating to internal security, immigration, etc.

Immediately below the Supreme Court stand the Courts of Appeals, created in 1891 to facilitate the disposition of cases. With few exceptions, cases decided in the district courts go next to the appeals courts. Only the Supreme Court reviews the decisions of the appeals courts.

94 district courts are located in the states. Most cases and controversies start in district courts. Here nearly all accused of committing federal crimes are tried.

The Court of Claims consisting of a chief justice and four associate justices was established in 1855. This court hears claims of private individuals against the government for breach of contracts, unpaid salary, property taken for public use and personal injuries. To adjudicate controversies arising within custom houses, the custom court was established in 1890.

Check your comprehension.

1. What kind of court system is there in the United States of America? 2. What is the federal judiciary made up?

3. What are Courts of Appeals?

## 4. Major political parties

The United States began as a one-party political system. George Washington and many others among the Revolutionary leaders wanted it to stay that way. In 1787, when the Constitution was written, the people were divided over whether to ratify it, although they were not yet organized into definite political parties.

The question of who should be the new President began to divide people into political organizations. On one side were the Federalists, representing business, finance and the middle classes of city folk. On the other side were the "Republicans" led by Thomas Jefferson. They represented mainly the country folk from Virginia. Thus by 1800 the one-party Revolutionary government of the United States quickly split up into a two-party system.

The parties chose their own names, Republican and Democratic, but not their party emblems. The cartoonist Thomas Nast invented the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey in the early 1870s, and they soon became fixed types.

The differences between the two parties are so small that a voter will see no intellectual inconsistency in voting for a Republican President, a Democratic state governor, a Republican Senator and a Democratic member of the House.

How is an individual's party affiliation determined, or how does a person choose sides in the game of party politics? The first and perhaps the most important determinant is family tradition. Most voters take the party of their parents. Economic position ranks second in influence on party bias. Recently there has been an increasing tendency for the well-to-do to vote Republican and for the less fortunate to vote Democratic. National origin plays the role too; descendants of northern Europeans tend to the Republican Party, while those of southern and eastern Europeans prefer the Democratic Party.

This traditional bipartisan system is highly cherished by Big Business, for it creates a sort of illusion that voters are free to choose between the candidates of these two parties, whereas both of them faithfully serve Big Business interests.

Check your comprehension.

1. What kind of party system was characteristic of the United States at the time of George Washington?

2. Whom did the Federalists represent?

3. Who were the Republicans?

4. What distinguishes the two parties?

5. Why is the traditional bipartisan system highly cherished by Big Business?

## 5. National symbols of the USA.

## The American Flag

Many people around the world know the American flag. It has three names: Old Glory, Stars and Stripes and the Star-Spangled Banner. The third name is also the name of the American national song.

The flag has three colors and represents freedom and justice in the United States. Here are 13 red and white stripes, representing the original 13 states in the U.S.A. There is also a field of blue with 50 white stars, each star representing one of the American states.

People put up flags on special holidays. Government office buildings put up a flag every morning and take it down every evening. Students say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag in many schools. This is the pledge: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. This pledge says you are loyal to the U.S. and the states are united as one nation with liberty and justice forever.

## Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell was cast in England in 1752 for the Pennsylvania Statehouse (now Independence Hall). Damaged in transit, it was recast in Philadelphia in 1753. It is inscribed with the words "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land". The bell was rung on July 8, 1776, for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. The Bell cracked on July 8, 1835, tolling the death of Chief Justice John Marshall. Now it is in the In dependence Hall of Philadelphia.

## The Great Seal of the United States

The newly independent United States needed an emblem and national coat of arms. The Continental Congress charged this important mission to the three of the best minds of the Age of Enlightened Franklin, Adams and Jefferson. The task proved far more difficult than anticipated; it took six years and the combined efforts of 14 men before the Great Seal of the U.S. became a reality on June 20, 1782.

Symbolically the seal reflects the beliefs and values that the Founding Fathers attached to the new nation and wished to pass on to their descendants. The red and white stripes of the shield represent the several states. The colors are adopted from the American flag: White signifies purity and innocence, Red - hardiness and valor, and Blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice. The shield on the breast of an American Bald Eagle without any supporters denotes that the United States of America ought to rely on their own virtue. The number 13, denoting the 13 original states, is represented in the bundle of arrows, the stripes of the shield and the stars of the constellation.

The olive branch and the arrows denote the power of peace and war. The constellation of stars symbolizes a new nation taking its place among other sovereign states.

Two important buildings in Washington, D. C. are also famous national symbols of the country. They are the U.S. Capitol, a symbol for the legislative branch of government, and the White House - the symbol of the executive branch.

Check your comprehension.

1. What names has the American flag?

2. What does the Statue symbolize?

3. What words are inscribed on the Liberty Bell?

4. What is the Great Seal of the U.S?

5. What do the arrows and the olive branch de note on the Seal?