

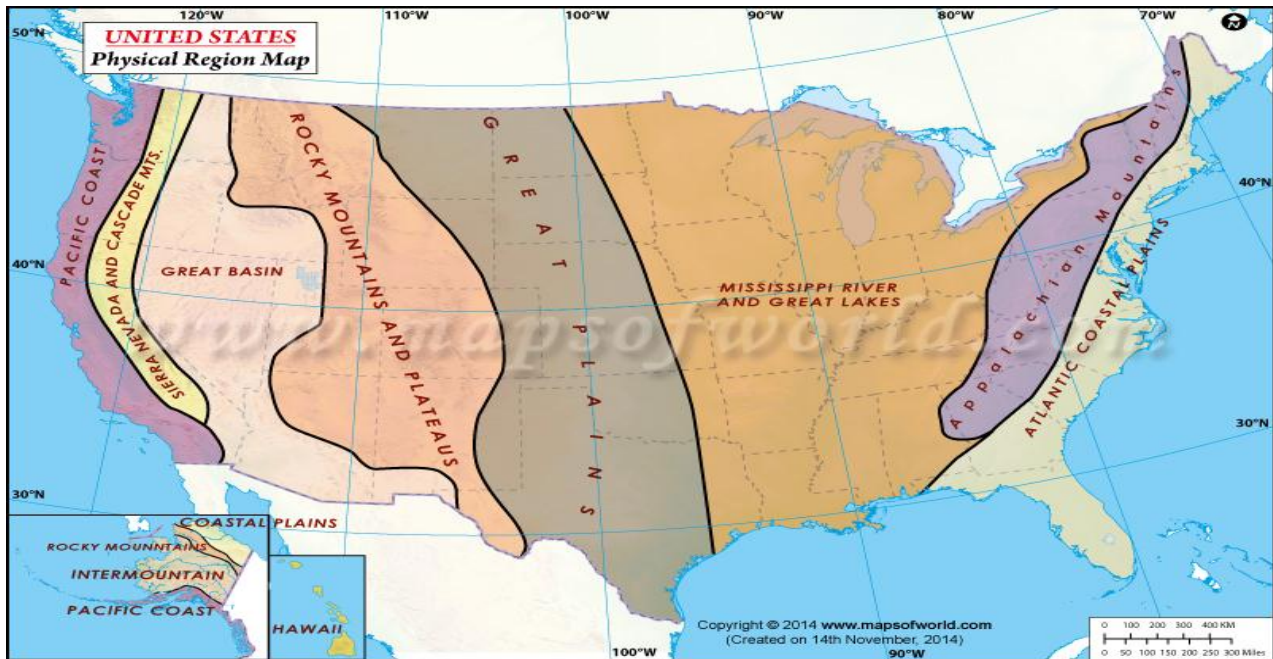
In the early 17th century, settlers moved from **Europe** to the **New World**, established colonies, and displaced the native peoples. For centuries native peoples lived across the vast expanse that would become the United States. Britain's American colonies broke with the mother country (UK) in **1776** and were recognized as the new nation of the United States of America.

The United States of America is the **world's third largest** country in size and nearly the third largest in terms of population. Located in North America, the country is bordered on the **west** by the **Pacific Ocean** and to the **east** by the **Atlantic Ocean**. Along the **northern border** is **Canada** and the **southern border** is **Mexico**. The United States has high mountains in the West and a vast central plain. The country is divided into **six regions**: *New England*, the *mid-Atlantic*, the *South*, the *Midwest*, the *Southwest*, and the *West*.

### 1. Map of the United States



The landscape varies across the large country from tropical beaches in Florida to peaks in the Rocky Mountains, from rolling prairie lands and barren deserts in the West to dense wilderness areas in the Northeast and Northwest. Interspersed throughout are the Great Lakes, the Grand Canyon, the majestic Yosemite Valley, and the mighty Mississippi River.

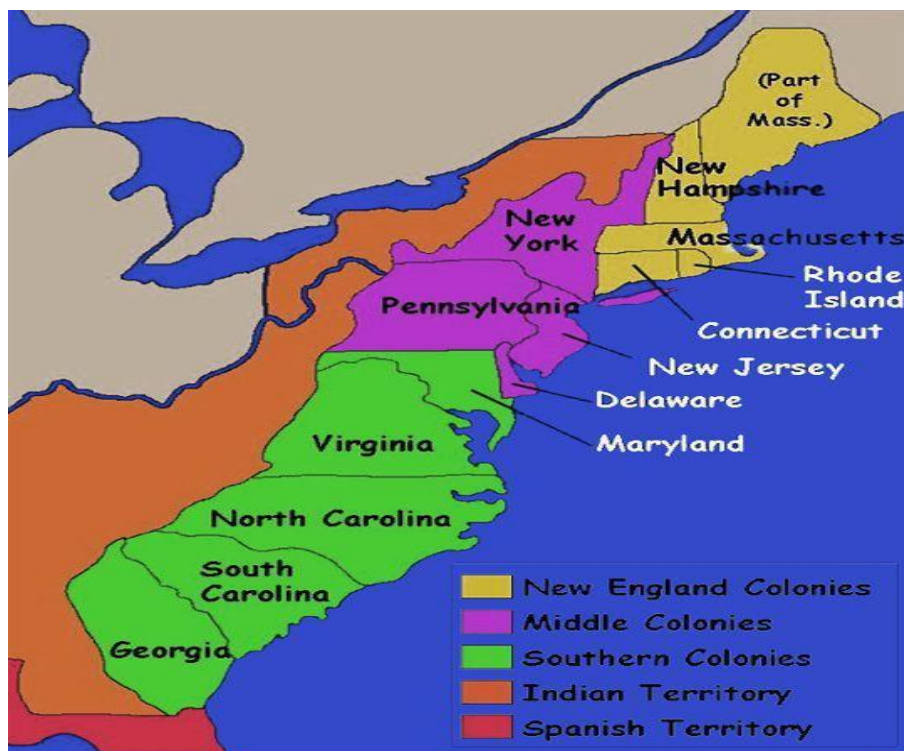


## 2. Map of US Regions

### The Thirteen English Colonies

The colonies are often divided up into three regions

- The **New England Colonies** including Connecticut, Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Rhode Island,
- The **Middle Colonies** including Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.,
- The **Southern Colonies** including Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia.



## Types of Colonies

By the 1760s there were three types of colonies in America—charter colonies, proprietary colonies, and royal colonies.

### 1. Charter colonies:

Connecticut and Rhode Island, the charter colonies, were established by settlers who had been given a charter, or a grant of rights and privileges. These colonists elected<sup>1</sup> their own governors and the members of the government. Great Britain had the right to approve the governor, but the governor could not veto the acts of the government. **Proprietary colonies:**

The proprietary colonies—Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania—were ruled by proprietors. These were individuals or groups to whom Britain had granted land. Proprietors were generally free to rule as they wished. They appointed the governors.

### 2. Royal colonies :

By the 1760s, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia were royal colonies. Britain directly ruled all royal colonies. In each the king appointed the governors.

## Britain's Repression of the Colonies

### • The Navigation Acts

In 1651, England's Parliament, moved to tighten control of colonial trade by passing a series of measures known as the Navigation Acts. These trade laws prevented colonists from **selling** their most valuable **products** to any country **except Britain**. In addition, colonists had to pay **high taxes** on **imported** French and Dutch **goods**. The English law prevented colonies from selling goods to other nations, even if they could get a better price. Frustration with these acts encouraged colonial merchants to break the new laws.

### • Sugar Act, the Stamp Act and the Quartering Act

In 1763 **George Grenville** became Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury. Grenville introduced the **American Revenue Act** of 1764, better known as the **Sugar Act**. The act changed the tax rates levied on raw sugar imported from foreign colonies. It also placed new taxes on silk, wine and coffee. The Sugar Act also allowed British officials to seize goods without due process, or proper court procedures.

---

<sup>1</sup> Colonial legislatures gave only some people voice in government. Generally, **white men** who **owned property** had the right to vote ; however, most women, indentured servants, landless poor, and African Americans could not vote.

To raise more money, Grenville asked Parliament to introduce a **Stamp Act** (passed in March 1765). The Stamp Act required stamps to be placed on most printed materials, including newspapers, pamphlets, posters, wills, mortgages,...etc.

The **Quartering Act** forced the colonies to pay more for their own defense. If the colonies did not provide barracks for British troops, the act stated that troops could stay in inns and vacant buildings, and the colonies had to pay the rent.

- **Royal Proclamation of 1763**

In early October, King George issued the Proclamation which drew a line from north to south along the Appalachian Mountains and declared that colonists could not settle west of the line without the British government's permission. This enraged many farmers and land speculators, who wanted access to the land.

### **Colonial reaction to the British Repression**

American colonists were outraged. Colonial lawyers accused the government of **"taxation without representation."** In Britain, citizens consented to taxes through their representatives in Parliament. The colonists, however, had no representation in Parliament. Thus, they argued they could not be taxed.

In October 1765, representatives from nine colonies met for what became known as **the Stamp Act Congress**. Together they issued **the Declaration of Rights and Grievances**. The declaration argued that only the colonists' political representatives and not British Parliament had the right to tax them. The congress then sent a petition to King George asking for relief and to the British Parliament asking for the repeal of the Stamp Act.

With protests against the Stamp Act mounting in both Britain and America, British lawmakers repealed the act in 1766. To demonstrate its authority over the colonies, however, Parliament also passed **the Declaratory Act**. This act asserted that Parliament had the power to make laws for the colonies. The next year a series of new regulations and taxes were introduced including the Revenue Act of 1767, this act put new customs duties on glass, paper, paint, and tea imported into the colonies.

### **The Boston Tea Party and the Coercive Acts**

In December 1773, when the tea ships of the British East India Company arrived in Boston Harbor, a group of colonists dumped a large load of British tea into Boston Harbor. George III, infuriated by the "Boston Tea Party," as it was called, ordered the British navy to close the port of Boston.

In the spring of 1774, Parliament passed new laws that came to be known as the **Coercive Acts**. These laws were intended to punish Massachusetts and end colonial challenges to British authority. The acts

ordered the shutting down of Boston's port until the city paid for the tea that had been destroyed, and allowed the governor to transfer trials of British soldiers and officials to England to protect them from American juries, and required the colonists to provide lodging for British soldiers in private homes if necessary.

### **The Decision for Revolution and Independence**

On September 5, 1774, the **First Continental Congress** met in Philadelphia. The 55 delegates to the Congress represented 12 of Britain's North American colonies. The Congress condemned the Coercive Acts and announced that the colonies were forming a nonimportation association to enforce a boycott of British goods. The delegates then agreed to hold a second Continental Congress in May 1775 if the crisis had not been resolved.

Many colonists in the summer of 1775 were not prepared to break away from Great Britain. Most members of the Second Continental Congress wanted the right to govern themselves, but they did not want to break with the British Empire.

In December 1775, the king issued **the Prohibitory Act**, shutting down trade with the colonies and ordering a naval blockade. The British also began expanding their army by recruiting mercenaries, or soldiers for hire, from Germany.

In early July 1776, a committee composed of **John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston**, and **Thomas Jefferson** submitted a document Jefferson had drafted on independence. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress issued **the Declaration of Independence**, declaring the birth of **the United States of America**.