

# America and The Americans

(It's Complicated)

By Jimmy Edward Harvey

Forward

**JIM'S LIFE**

**Live is too short,  
So, forgive quickly,  
Believe slowly,  
Love truly, really-truly,  
Laugh LOUDLY, and  
Never avoid anything that  
Makes you SMILE!**

*Jimmy Edward Harvey*

## Dedication

To all Americans – **“One country, One People,  
United and Indivisible”!**

## Introduction

Even before there was a United States of America, many foreign groups went to North America. The French and Britain came in the fifteen and 16th centuries. Spain arrived in the mid-1700s.

The French explores ventured deep into the interior, heartlands, and polar regions of the continent to show outpost and villages. When the British arrived, their settlement efforts were limited to the primarily to coastal areas of the North Atlantic coast.

It is possible that because the natives of North America were nomadic hunter grazers, their existence was not immediately threatened, by the presence of these British colonizers, because initially these new strangers arrived in small numbers, and maybe, it was assumed by the natives, that the British, as it was with the French and Spanish, would move on.

### **The British Charter System.**

Two charters (Roanoke) were approved in 1585 and 1587 by the British Monarch. However, both of those attempts to colonize failed. Another British attempt at colonization in the New World North Atlantic succeeded in 1607 (Virginia).

The first British North American colony was proved and named Jamestown as a tribute to King James, the then English monarch.

These new arrivals would create problems. Unlike the French, the British arrived with the intention of “settling,” plantation, and taking for themselves, lands and property that clearly did not belong to them.

### **British Colonization.**

The British would try to strip all natives of their cultures and lands. These efforts ultimately denied the natives of food and habitat. Famine and deaths were caused by the British abuse of traditional native farming and grazing the lands. Deaths occurred among the natives due to disease brought by the British. The British built large cities taxed the native lands and continued to bring more settlers. This increase in an uncontrolled population growth meant that lands that the natives traditionally used as food sources, were stolen, or destroyed by these invaders, through misuse of the land. These newcomers were insensitive to the plight of the natives.

A hundred and seventy-plus years later, not even the colonist themselves, faced with the intolerant, and abusive treatment by the British Parliament system, would tolerate such insensitive abuse. Changes had to be made.

## Chapter One

### Understanding the British Charters

Under its charter system, the monarch granted British citizens, exclusive powers of governance to a land or territory that he or she, did not own, in a place that the monarch had never visited. Because the monarch did not own the lands that it was granting governance to, in that land the monarch could not guarantee any protection. However, all colonial charters “guaranteed, in vague terms to the settlers, the rights and privileges of Englishmen, but they could have no representation in the (English) British Parliament. These latter provisions, such as taxation without representation, and other Royal treatments would, in time, be the cause of problems for the British government in its attempt to enact laws and collect taxes from colonist that had no civil representation with their home government.

Under the Charter systems used by the British and European monarchs, rights of settlement were granted to educated, yet unskilled elites of the British society. Therefore, workers and builders were needed for the “plantation” in these alien lands.

Hence, the lower classes citizens of the British empire, volunteered to leave England, or were forced into servitude to serve their masters, the ruling class of British society. These lower classes masses made up the free Irish and Scottish people, indentured mercenaries, prisoners, enslaved Africans, and the exiled of British society – the humble, sick, desperate, abandoned of humankind. Yet together, they stood “STRONG.”

Despite unexpected hardships, those colonial society persisted to build societies of “free” expression of lifestyles, religion, and governance.



## Chapter Two

### **The Change**

The world knows that America's birthday is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1776. Few non-Americans understand that the "birth of this nation" was an "unplanned conception."

After the United States of America was born, the nation's growth between birth and adulthood was interrupted only once in more than 245 years. And yet, some will say America's growth has only accelerated. Changes following its war of independence with England has been life changing for all in the "new" country after 4 July 1776.

### **We The People:**

While the term "we the people" excluded most inhabitants of the new country at the time, the founding document – The Constitution of the Republic of the United States of America, was a brilliantly written document, and formed the basis for the establishment of a Democratic system of government that help to transform the worlds' meaning of a democratic society.

**Unity:** One nation.

**Religious morality:** Under God.

**Fairness:** With Liberty and Justice for All.

Well, almost all.

## Chapter Three

### 4 July 1776 and Thirteen United States

**Protestant (Religious) dominated New England colonies:**

**Massachusetts  
Connecticut  
Rhode Island  
New Hampshire  
Maryland  
Pennsylvania (and Business)**

**Business dominated Middle Atlantic colonies:**

**New York  
New Jersey  
Delaware**

**Economic (Plantation) dominated Southern colonies:**

**Virginia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Georgia**

In England, these colonies were governed through a state department known as the **Southern Department** under a Board of Trade and Plantations.

## Chapter Four

### **Politics**

Under British colonial rule, the colonist answered to the British Parliament for political guidance, hence, many of the settlement charter holders were those close to the Royals - merchants, religious leaders, and lawyers, few of these grantees had any political experience of civil governance. No problem – as new Americans, they would create what they needed from their “gut.” The American way, free from Royals and the dominance of the Rich and Mighty. Americans States would all govern the new nation “equally” and united.

We the People do not need nor want a King nor his family and friends. We the People will choose a President as our leader, from among ourselves, to speak as one, for all of us.

We the People will establish an equal house of a bicameral government. A House of Representatives which will represent the State’s populations equally and a Senate to Represent each of the solvent States.

From the “gut” and as a free people, what would I wish for in my life? No problem: I would demand ---  
--

**The Right** to live where, and how I wish.

**The Right** to practice religion as I wish, or not.

**The Right** to say, what I want, to whomever I wish.

**The Right** to be free.

**The Right** to pursue those things that made me happy.

**The Right** to be Wrong.

We the people (lawyers; religious leaders and merchants) will create a **Bill of Rights**.

But who will say which of us are right and which are wrong? A Supreme Court with power to judge and protect the laws for all of us will be established.

## Chapter Five

### **Equal Justice**

Together these souls stood strong to build a nation.

With the help of the natives of this land, the early New England and Mid-Atlantic colonist were able to build shelter, and subsistence farm in quantities, which enabled them to survive in this new land together. Results of their plantation was bartered and traded among themselves to ensure survival of all.

Following the successful war of independence from England, the state structure of the new states, remained pretty much the same as were in colonial times.

## Chapter Six

### **Political Parties**

Guided by the new constitution, the evolution of the new country proceeded smoothly until 1828 when political parties were formed.

The Democrat Party was founded in 1828. In opposition, the Republican party was founded in 1854.

- Representation of Protected Territories and Washington, D. C.:

Guam (USA) and Puerto Rico are represented in the U. S. Legislature, but they are not allowed to vote. The District of Columbia (D. C.) is represented in the legislature, but, as it is governed by the Legislature, it is not allowed to vote.

Several other parties are recognized but not all are represented in the U. S. Legislature.

## Chapter Seven

### **Chapters 13 and 14 of the United States Constitution – The World’s First Bi-Racial Nation**

#### **The Americans**

The ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment (1865) to the Constitution formally removed ambiguous language, and abolished enslavement of “persons” as a legal practice in the new country. Further, creating the pathway for the equal representation in government.

The ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment (1868) to the Constitution formally granted citizenship to all persons “born or naturalized in the United States”, including formerly enslaved people, and provided all citizens with “equal protection under the laws,” extending the provisions of the Bill of Rights to states.

These provisions meant that any person, Native, or even off springs of foreign nationals that were born within the boundaries of the United States, or to citizens of Americans, born anyplace – were citizens of the United States of America regardless of race – thus were Americans fully protected by the Constitution of the United States of America.



## Chapter Eight

### **Manumission, Emancipation, Jim Crowism, Segregation, Integration**

#### **Presidential War Powers Executive Order.**

The new nation had authorized a manumission slave act in 1782, but by Executive Order President Lincoln imposed emancipation for the captured “human” property of rebellious Confederate States of America (CSA) while allowing the non-rebellious states to continue acting under the provisions of the manumission act.

#### **Manumission.**

Article III of act: “And be it further enacted, that in case any slave so liberated shall neglect in any year to pay all taxes and levies imposed or to be imposed by law, the court of the county shall order the sheriff to hire out him or her for so long time as will raise the said taxes and levies.” This provision of the act sounds like government enforced servitude with no “stated” end or “slavery” by government order.

## **Emancipation – Jim Crow.**

Legal emancipation came with the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment. However, powerful southern Senators of the former CSA managed to enforce a “separate but equal” policy throughout the southern states. Termed “JimCrow,” it in fact, was a system of apartheid for persons of African blood.

## **Justice Denied.**

U. S. government enforced “legal” segregation lasted, in America until 1964. Ended with the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

## **Civil Rights Denied.**

No place was manumitted or emancipated former enslaved persons allowed equal justice.

In fact, people of Color and ethnic minorities in America are routinely denied most of the rights afforded citizens by the U. S. Bill of Rights based on the Color of their skin or the percentage of African blood thought to be in their body and enforced under a nation-wide system of police brutality.

## Chapter Nine

### **Immigration**

The new nation needed many things, but most importantly, Irish, Scottish, and Africans outnumbered the ruling, former British citizens, who were predominately Caucasians (White).

Although the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendments were law, racial diversity was a fundamental problem for the formally social superior, elitist, White British.

## Chapter Ten

# **The Greatest Human Experiment in the History of Mankind**

For nearly three centuries America has existed as one of the greatest experiments of a democracy, racial diverse and united, nation in the history of man.

### **The Nation that Was Never Meant to be a Nation.**

#### **Congress petitions English king to address grievances:**

On October 25, 1774, the First Continental Congress sent a “respectful” petition to King George III to inform his majesty that if it had not been for the acts of oppression forced upon the colonies by the British Parliament the American people would be standing behind British rule.

The petition, written by Continental Congressman John Dickinson, laid out what Congress felt was undue oppression of the colonies by the British Parliament. Their grievances mainly had to do with a series of four acts that were established to punish colonists and to restore order in Massachusetts following the Boston Tea Party.

**The Boston Port Act:** Closed the port of Boston to all colonist until damages from the Boston Tea Party were paid.

**The Massachusetts Government Act:** Gave the British government total control of town meeting. Taking all decisions out of the hands if the colonist.

**The Administration of Justice Act:** Made British officials immune to criminal prosecution in America.

**The Quartering Act:** Required colonists to house and quarter British troops on demand, including in private homes.

The king did not respond to the petition, to the satisfaction of the assembled colonist.

The Second Continental Congress acts – On July 6, 1775, the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution written by John Dickinson and Thomas Jefferson which laid out the reasons for taking up arms and starting a violent revolution against British rule of the colonies. The resolution was entitled, “**Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms.**”

## Chapter Eleven

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776

### **The Democratic Republic of the United States of America**

No longer British subjects of the King of England, no longer British, the former Thirteen British North American Colonies were united, in a place called America, whereby lived the Americans!

#### **Diversity.**

The British sea captains, and wealthy merchants that first waded ashore along the of North Atlantic continent were Anglo Saxons, unaware of the important part that the natives of the land would play in their mission and ultimate survival.

Many of those on board, i.e., the ship's crew, indentured tradesmen, and passengers had never seen a person, who was not white, black, or yellow. Therefore, they referred to the North American natives that they met as "Red Men."

## **The Melting Pot 1.0.**

Each diverse group would subsequently play a significant, and significant role in the creation of America, the American, and “the American way.”

A nation like no nation ever before, nor since.

Long Live America and the American Way.

ISBN: 978-1-68524-448-4