

AMERICAN HISTORY

1497: John Cabot, first English explorer sailed in English commission

Sir Walter Raleigh brought the first settlers to America

1585 - 1587: First settlement, disappeared totally; abortive attempts to colonise the coast of what is today North Carolina

REASONS FOR THE SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA

Partly, the English went to America to make money or on a companies account. They were not forced by the king.

People who were persecuted because of their belief sought religious freedom.

Poor people wanted to start a new life in health.

COLONIAL PERIOD

1607: First permanent settlement in Virginia; settlers landed at Chesapeake Bay, Jamestown is founded by John Smith

badly prepared, died from illness, starvation
quarrells about leadership, noble men wanted to find something new, poor men worked for them
Virginia was a bad place because of swamps
successful in the production and export of tobacco
against new government in England

1614: John Rolfe sent first tobacco to England
basis for the survival of Jamestown

1619: 20 african negro slaves were sold in Jamestown to a master

1620: Mayflower arrived at Cape Cod, Massachusetts founded, second

permanent settlement
working class men from Holland, craftsmen, wanted to work, **puritan religion** was the center of their lives
badly prepared, many died, strong will helped to survive (hard work)

The Mayflower Compact:

pilgrims **put themselves together** under just and equal laws and an own government but **still subjects**

government: **ordering function** to ensure the colonie`s successful development

civil body politic: based on the peoples will, ordering function, laws necessary for organized living

given by God and by the **permission of the King** (show their honour for God`s protection and keep his land in order)

The American Dream:

expression for a successful career: poor people or refugees build up a **wealthy life through their hard work**; they began with little money and became very rich; they were released of their sorrows and equal and free; with the **help of their community** they could make something out of **their life** and of **their nation**

1624: New Amsterdam founded, became English in **1664 (New York)**

1634: Maryland founded by the liberal **Lord Baltimore, tolerant colony Catholic** (// England, Reformation), clever in political actions
land was granted to Lord Baltimore by the King, well-suited place, prepared
compromises, diplomatic
supported the English Revolution

1636: Rhode Island, capital: Providence, **tolerant**
founder fled from Massachusetts (deviationist of the puritan religion)

1643: "United Colonies of New England", union between Plymouth, Connecticut, New Haven and Massachusetts

1682: Pennsylvania founded by **William Penn, tolerant, Quakers** (never touch a weapon), german refugees

17th century: Mercantilism comes to force (more export than import), **no own law** for the american colonies, no right of merchandising, pay of taxes on their plantations; settlers become dissatisfied with the Kingdom and Europe because of the sea war between England and France (English lost money and raised taxes - BOSTON TEA PARTY)

1764: Inner taxes on food, clothes etc.

16.12. 1773: Boston Tea Party, protest against the hightaxation of the government in England, English tea was thrown into the sea to make clear that they didn't want goods from England anymore

1775: Union of the 13 "original" American states

1776: Declaration of Independence

1775 - 1781: War of Independence

COLONIES

North: Massachusetts, badly prepared, refused John Smiths` help because they thought they were under God`s protection

not tolerant (their belief is the only true)

hard workers, craftsmen, **puritan religion** was the center of life
prayers,church service, helpful to the members of their community
no fun/luxury/pleasure

didn`t exploit the land or teach the natives their religion

rejected Catholicism, wanted to be **free from the king**, Puritans = Protestant

South: Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Rhode Island
tolerant

noble men (Royalists), poor people, wanted to make money,
adventurers, people from many different countries
strong will, courageous

colonies grew quickly

support and opposition of the English Revolution (King = Catholic)

Forces that made the settlement in North America become a success:

1. Religious freedom and the will to practise it
2. Strong will to work, survive, explore and achieve aims, perseverance
3. Freedom because of persecution in the home countries, hope for a better life
4. Getting rich quickly
5. Pioneer`s spirit, community feeling
6. Tolerance

PURITANISM

Influenced by **Calvin**, started at ca. 1560

Split from **Catholicism**, much alike in rights, against **monarchy**

pilgrims went to North America (Baptists, Quakers), first **american literature** was puritanic

purify the church and the believes, **make everything simple**

they **didn`t exploit gold mones or teach the natives their religion**

they worked with the **help of the Indians**

HABITS AND CUSTOMS:

simple dress, no luxury/pleasure/fun/complaints, acception of their life and fate

serious people, restricted, strict life after the Bible:

work is the center of life - glorified God

earned much money - **political power**

adherence to the strict rules of **a leader**; loving, educated and intelligent wives

PRUDESTINATION OF GOD:

responsibility for one`s own life

no work = no deserve of God`s mercy

CALVINISM

Ideas created by **Calvin** (1509 - 1564) who was born in France and persecuted by the Crown and the people

IDEAS OF THE CHURCH:

monistries, absolute obedience, everybody has to believe in the Bible

teams were sent from house to house to control the people

discipline - system **accepted** by the people and the government

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD (1600 - 1776)

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN EUROPE WHICH INFLUENCED THE AMERICAN HISTORY

1. 30 - years - war
2. Mercantilism
3. Civil War in England/Scotland, victory of the puritanistic Oliver Cromwell = politic and religious troubles in esp. the southern colonies (Virginia followed the King and did not accept Cromwell), Puritans in the north were happy, fights between the colonies, people fled to liberal Maryland
4. Persecution of Calvin, the man who influenced Puritanism
5. Death of Cromwell in 1658, monarchy restored
6. 1707: England and Scotland united, Balance of Power

GERMANY/HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE:

1614 - 1648: 30 - years - war reduced population

plague and famine killed many people, poverty
whole **Empire divided** into hundreds of small principalities;
every Lord decided upon the **confession** in his principality -
many people **unable to practise their religion** - **emigrations to America** (people were forced to accept the religion of their landlord), hope for better living conditions and religious liberty

FRANCE:

1661 - 1745: France is an **absolutistic state** (Louis XIV)

Absolutism: state is represented by one person who has the absolute power;
no division of the three powers

Mercantilism: necessary for financing the absolutistic state; state controls the economic system with the help of taxes, high customs on imported goods; more export than import

During the regency of Louis XIV it was **forbidden** to leave the country **without permission**.

ENGLAND:

1603: Queen Elisabeth I died

1603 - 1625: **James I** was king ("King of Britain")

1625 - 1649: **Charles I, confrontation with the parlaiment:** parlaiment wanted the people to be defended against arbitual taxes. Charles I **desolved parlaiment** in 1629 - 11 years of **direct rule, no parlaiment, centralization of government**

1640: Parlaiment recalled

1642 - 1648: **Civil war (War of secession)** between crown and parlaiment: very brutal, victory of **Oliver Cromwell** (Puritan), execution of Charles I, aristocracy went partly to America: political and religious troubles in the colonies (Virginia followed King and didn`t accept Cromwell), puritans in the north happy, the south bewildered

1649 - 1660: England became a **republic**

1658: Cromwell`s death

1660 - 1685 : Charles II, **restored monarchy**

1685 - 1688: James II, Catholic, wanted to **restore Catholicism** - in conflict with the people - had to flee to France in 1688

1688: **Glorious Revolution**

1689: **Declaration of Rights**, gentry had influence on parlaiment, the **three powers were separated**; second, political revolution

1701 - 1713: **Spanischer Erbfolgekrieg (war of succession) - Balance of power in Britain was a result**

1707: **Act of Union**, Scotland and England united

SITUATION AT THE TIME OF BAROQUE AND ENLIGHTENMENT

(End of 16th until middle of 17th century)

Baroque: at the end of the 16th century a style term for **art at the time of absolutism**
new reforms, church had more power:
magnificent churches, harmony of renaissance
confuse movements in the arts - reflections of the people:
discoveries (new picture of the form of the world, everything changed, insecurity (don't know what to expect),
earth is no longer the center of the universe = overthrow of thinking = reflected in arts

Arts and artists of Baroque:

Velàzquez, Rubens and Rembrandt

contrasts of light and darkness, expensive materials, movements

Music: texts with a **meaning, first opera** (in Italy), instruments
magnificent and exaggerated shows (expressive state equipments),
made for **entertainment** with a **political background** and **criticism**
very emotional dramas about unlucky love, war, dead and related people
music as a medium to show **God's glory**

Artists: Bach, Vivaldi, Monteverdi, Händel

Literature: **esthetically**, a lot of **explanations**
overdone, elaborate, decorating adjectives
religious literature, poets were **scholars**

Enlightenment (1720 - 1785): Montesquieu, Voltaire

courage to **trust in one's own mental abilities, natural laws**, explanations
philosophic people, no blind believe

making one's own decisions by using the "**common sense**" , a different point of view on religion

freedom of the press, separation of powers

own responsibility for politics and social life

clearness, simplicity

"common sense": no superstitions/blind believe/ guidance by emotions/traditions,
science important, optimistic people

Authors: Rousseau: equal rights, general will, education of children (how
to make children enlightened)

Kant: use of common sense

Lessing

Literature was influenced by the new thinking: critical, scientific, teaching
character, model for the reader

fables, clear languages, school or physical themes

REASONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

After the 7 - years - war, Louisiana and Canada went back to England. This created a feeling of self - employment in the colonies. England was in financial crisis after the war and raised therefor the taxes in the colonies

(= Boston Tea Party as the trigger for the war of independence).

1774: First Continental Congress, representatives of all 13 colonies met
to declare their independence, military battles start

THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

July 4, 1776: Second Continental Congress, Declaration of American Independence accepted which was drawn up by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington

Declaration: Based on the theories of Locke, Montesquieu and Rousseau, division of powers, concept of the general

will, guarantee of the personal freedom and equality of all people, nation = sovereign

1781: Capitulation of the English troops in Yorktown with the help of the French army

1783: **Treaty of Versailles:** This contract accepted the independence of the 13 colonies

1787: **Constitutional Convent** under George Washington meets to **work out a constitution for America**

1789: **George Washington is elected first President of the USA, Washington D.C. becomes the capital**

In Europe, debates on modern forms of government arose, especially in France (see French Revolution). In the French declaration of rights of humans and citizens of 1789, american ideas can be recognized

ROMANTICISM IN EUROPE (1790 - 1830)

Exaggerated, impressive, emotional, fantastic; modern and interesting movements; mysterious and magical elements and atmosphere

ARTS: landscape paintings and observations, own impressions and imaginations of the painter caused **subjective and wrong perspectives**, new colours and lights
unprecise contours caused **a moving, active and energetic impression**
powerlessness of the human being in contrast to the more powerful nature

MUSIC: 4 parts of romanticism (early, high, late and post) from 1820 -

1900

nature is important

music and lyrics are closely connected

expressions of experiences in life, feelings, dreams ("Kunstlied")

music has got its own melody, made for earning the composer`s living

LITERATURE: fairy tales and folk motives

LITERATURE

What belongs to literature?

epics, novellas, calendar stories, poetry, fairy tales, emblem (artificial symbol with an abstract meaning, consists of three parts: motto, text, picture, people draw out wisdoms and rules for their behaviour)

Reasons for writing literature:

Ideals and imaginations change

New political and social developments cause new feelings:

expressed in poems, fantasy, folk - motives

only possibility to cope with reality

give explanations for environment, contexts, new discoveries and science

write down rules for religious and/or social behaviour

IN THE USA:

"HUSWIFERY" ("The house - wives` work):

Influenced by European art (Baroque), Emblem, PURITANISTIC

Topic of the poem: everyday life with God, Taylors` world =

Gods` word, GLORIFY GOD = EVERYDAY WORK

abstract language with a concrete meaning (reflects religious belief),

headline sums up the topic

everyday life should glorify, praise and cooperate with Gods` will =

advice to other people how to lead a good life

SUBJECT OF GOD

"TO MY DEAR AND LOVING HUSBAND" (Baroque, 1678):

PURITANISTIC, TYPICAL EUROPEAN EMBLEM
emotional language

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT AND REAGAN'S SPEECH

"LET US RENEW THE COMPACT":

The Compact = success in the future by community; people manage their own lives

Reagan: America was created according to God`s will

It is put under God`s blessing and was granted to the Americans
by God

Only their belief made them survive: The creation of the nation is
a honour for God`s protection

America is based on the religious belief as a part of the
community

He proves by the historical references that it is possible to achieve
aims because they were already achieved. He wants to remind of
the "American Dream" and create a new spirit of pioneerism.

"THE AMERICAN DREAM":

successful career

united America, teamwork for a better life

a land with no boundaries like in a dream

to begin with no money and become rich through hard work and community spirit

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT UNTIL AFTER THE CIVIL WAR AND ITS EFFECTS

THE CIVIL WAR (WAR OF SECESSION), 1861 - 1865:

America was **divided into two parts before the war:**

North: partly industrial

democratic, liberal, federal democracy = abolish slavery

free trade with Europe

independence from other states = duties on goods, wanted to sell own goods

South: economy depended on slaves and cotton - plantations

aristocratic political system

tendencies to break up with the Union because they didn't want to abolish slavery

didn't want duties on goods because they needed the european goods

1820: Missouri - Compromise:

Divides states who abolished slavery from those who kept it up,

demarcation line: south of Missouri slavery was kept up and so the

Compromise was broken off

1823: Monroe - Doctrine:

No interferences of european states into American concerns

1854: Kansas and Nebraska founded

Democrats split into the **Republican Party (north, liberal) with A. Lincoln and the Democratic Party (south, conservative)** as a result of trade question (Today Republicans are conservatives and the Democrats are liberal).

1860: A. Lincoln becomes president of the Republican Party and so of the USA, south broke away from the USA and **they founded the Confederate States (1861)**

Lincoln said that the Union is indissolveable and wanted a more liberal policy in the south

Lincoln justified the war by the Constitution and the indissolveable Union. For him, the Union was the most important thing.

He declared the war on the southern states because they broke up with the Union.

The south was supported by France and England who opposed also the Monroe - Doctrine.

The south justified the war by demanding an own sovereignty. They didn't regard themselves as represented by Lincoln.

1865: North won the Civil War by an **UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF THE SOUTH**, a few weeks later, Lincoln was shot by a southern fanatic

Racial conflicts in the south because they didn't accept the equality of the slaves :
Ku - Klux - Clan

After the War:

South: cotton - plantations (upper - class, aristocrates, plutocracy), wealth was destroyed by the destruction of the plantations during the war

North - east: industry (middle - class - society, liberal, democracy)

Middlewest: farms

Slaves moved northwards, northern industry grew and people became rich

DEVELOPMENT SHORT STORY - SHORT STORY

EDGAR ALLAN POE'S CONCEPT OF A SHORT STORY:

The definitive characteristic of a short story is its unity of effect!

The author has to work out a certain unique or single effect. To achieve this he has to invent such incidents and then combines them as may help him in establishing the effect. He should never write a word which has the tendency not to support and stress the pre - established design.

THE SHORT STORIES ARE INFORMED BY AN OVERWHELMING OR UNIQUE EVENT.

Short stories are a typical american genre of literature.

At the beginning: **No copyright law, pirating was possible for everybody, Americans could publish european literature and the other way round**

Before 1891: no profit possible, difficult to earn money because the original author was difficult to determine, **it was difficult for american authors to become famous in Europe but european authors were well known in America**

1891: Chace Act, first copyright law

Ways of earning money for american authors:
working for newspapers, magazines etc.

A short story had to be divided into many parts to be published in a newspaper. This would interrupt the process of reading and create no tension. The readers would cease reading because they loose interest.

The new short story was easy to publish because it needn't be divided and tension had not to be kept up for a long time.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE IMPRESSIONIST STORY:

A tale shaped and given meaning by the consciousness and psychological attitude of the narrator (e.g. POE). The story focusses on the impressions registered by events on the character's mind.

The development was typical american.

Shórt stóry (shorter than a novel, Rip van Winkle) - shórt story (special kind)

RIP VAN WINKLE

THE DETAILS OF THE STORY WERE TAKEN NOT FROM REALITY BUT FROM A CHARACTER'S MIND: HE DRAWS UPON THE SYMBOLIC SURREALITY OF RIP'S DREAMS

Contains elements of Romanticism (exaggerations, nature descriptions, overdone characters and descriptions); similes (comparisons), proverbs, contrasts

Rip and his wife are stereotypes: they don't change their character; a character develops

Narration perspective: omniscient perspective = unlimited point of view

Most of his life is told = like in a short novel

introduction, solution
political situation

PERSPECTIVES OF NARRATION:

first person narrator

third person narrator: 1. omniscient author

2. neutral author

3. character in the story

omniscient = unlimited point - of - view (he gives explanations to feelings, characters, descriptions, comments)

not omniscient = limited point - of - view (only the feelings of one person are described)

THE MINISTER'S BLACK VEIL

THE STORY IS ABOUT A SYMBOLIC EVENT WHICH IS VIEWED SUBJECTIVELY BY THE CENTRAL CHARACTER. THE CREATED SCENES, PERSONS AND EVENTS STRIKE THE READER AS BEING ACTUAL HISTORICAL FACTS AND ALSO AS BEING RICH IN SYMBOLIC IMPORT.

A modern short story: typical problem of mankind

A parable: The author wants to teach the reader; can also be found in the Bible

Omniscient perspective, a round, developing character, no stereotype

The story starts with the climax but tension rises: one climax is followed by another one

Romantic elements: overdone vocabulary, gothic elements

THE COLONIAL LAG:

Literary movements which are over in Europe still appear in America

Reasons: It took a long time to accept the ideas, travelling by ship, different ways of thinking in the USA, people were more concerned with earning their lives, surviving and exploring the country

RIP VAN WINKLE:

author comments

THE MINISTER'S...:

comments of the actor (direct

directly

humorous, elaborate language
stereotypes, typical persons, flat
character

speech

indirectly - drawing of conclusions

serious

round character, deeply psychological

character is topic of
the story

Non dangerous (christian belief):

tolerance
love
solidarity
everybody is accepted

sects:

total isolation from daily life
if the sect takes over the control of people's mind
no own opinion and communication with other people

feeling of superiority
believes that endanger personal life
isolation, alienation
a subversive sect
holy wars, discrimination of special groups
hatred, condemnation

THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH

THE HALLUCINATIONS OF A CENTRAL CHARACTER OR NARRATOR PROVIDE THE DETAILS AND FACTS OF THE STORY. THE READER CAN SEE ONLY THE NARRATOR'S IMPRESSION OF THE SCENE.

flat characters, stereotypes (no background is given); no real characterisations because the central effect and the unity would be destroyed
colours with symbolic meaning
masques = symbols of the escape from reality
clock = life will come to an end, evanescence (Vergänglichkeit)

allegories: personification of a certain complex or subject, *here:*

Red Death = illness outside

atmosphere is the central effect; it creates mystery, fear, horror
also influence of the colonial lag

Ways of creating a horrible atmosphere:

Setting + time + action (characters) = UNITY OF EFFECT

language, perspective

people`s behaviour

masques