

CHAPTER I. THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The first European settlement in North America was established by the English in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia. This colony was founded by a group of men sent by the Virginia Company of London. The settlement was initially successful, but it faced numerous hardships, including a severe winter in 1609-1610 known as the Starving Time. Despite these challenges, the colony survived and eventually thrived, leading to the establishment of the first permanent English colony in North America.

Other early settlements followed, including the Pilgrims at Plymouth in 1620 and the Puritans at Boston in 1630. These settlers were seeking religious freedom and better economic opportunities. The early years of these colonies were marked by conflict with Native Americans, most notably the Powhatan Wars in Virginia and the Pequot War in New England.

The early history of the United States is characterized by a struggle for independence from British rule. The American Revolution (1775-1783) was a pivotal event that led to the birth of the United States as a sovereign nation. The Declaration of Independence in 1776 was a key document that declared the colonies' right to self-governance.

The early years of the United States were also marked by the development of a federal government. The Constitution was drafted in 1787 and ratified in 1788, establishing the framework for the nation's government. The early years of the Republic were characterized by a struggle between Federalists and Anti-Federalists over the role of the federal government.

The early history of the United States is a story of exploration, settlement, and the struggle for independence. It is a story that has shaped the nation's identity and continues to influence its development today.