**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ**

**ВОЛГОГРАДСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЙ**

**УНИВЕРСИТЕТ**

**Кафедра иностранных языков**

**СОЕДИНЕННЫЕ ШТАТЫ АМЕРИКИ**

**Методические указания по дополнительному образованию**

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**UNIT I.**

**Read and translate the text.**

**THE USA: GENERAL ACQUAINTANCE**

The United States of America, commonly called the United States, originated with the Declaration of Independence of 1776, - the public act by which the American Continental Congress, on July 4th, 1776 declared the North American colonies to be free and independent of Great Britain. It is a federal republic comprising fifty states, the District of Columbia, and six territories and dependencies.

The national capital is Washington D.C. Washington was created to be the seat of government of the USA. The flag of the USA, the Stars and Stripes, has fifty stars on a blue background. Each of these stars represents one of the fifty states. But the City of Washington is not in any of these states. It occupies the District of Columbia, abbreviated into D.C., and the name of the capital always goes with this abbreviation not to be mixed up with another Washington, which is a state on the Pacific Coast. The District of Columbia is between the states of Virginia and Maryland, on the Potomac River not far from the Atlantic Ocean. The population of Washington D.C., is about 750,000 and together with the suburbs (the metropolitan area) its population is over 2,800,000.

Washington is like no other city of the USA. New York is a center of finance, of shipping, of fun; New Orleans deals in cotton; Chicago sells wheat and a hundred head of cattle. But Washington’s only industry is government. About two-thirds of the population work for the Federal Government. The White House, where the US President lives and works, the Capitol, the home of the US Congress, and the Supreme Court are all in Washington D.C. While this city is an important center of the US Federal Government, it is also a great cultural center containing numerous museums, art galleries, libraries, shrines, churches, parks and monumental buildings.

The country is bounded by the Pacific Ocean in the west, Canada in the north, the Atlantic Ocean in the east, and Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico in the south. The total land and island water area of the United States is 9,4 million square kilometers. The US is thus the world’s fourth largest state after Russia, China and Canada.

The population of the country is over 260 million people. The national composition of the population is varied.

The largest cities of the USA are: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Detroit.

From the economic point of view the USA is a highly developed country. It takes the first place in industrial and agricultural output in the world.

**Exercise 1. Read the sentences using English equivalents.**

1) The United States of America (образовались) with the Declaration of independence of 1776. 2) The USA is a federal republic (включающая 50 штатов). 3) The US is (четвертое по величине) state after Russia, China and Canada. 4) (С экономической точки зрения) the USA is a highly developed capitalist country.

**Exercise 2. Find English equivalents in the text.**

Свободные и независимые от; общая территория; национальный состав населения; насчитывать; высокоразвитая страна; тяжелое машиностроение.

**Exercise 3. Answer the questions.**

1) When did the United States originate? 2) What kind of state is the USA? 3) What city is the capital of the country? 4) Where is the United States situated? 5) What is the territory of the USA? 6) What is the population of the country? 7) What can you say about the national composition of the population? 8) Name the largest cities of the USA. 9) What country is the USA from the economic point of view?

Exercise 4. Rearrange the sentences putting the words in their correct order.

1. 1776, originated, the USA, in.
2. Republic, fifty states, comprises, the federal.
3. On the north, Canada, is bounded, the country, by.
4. Is varied, the population, the national composition, of.
5. More than, five cities, a million people, in the USA, have.
6. Are imported, petroleum, in the USA, electrical apparatus, and.
7. In the world, the first, it, industrial, in, takes, output, place.

**UNIT II. THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES (THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT)**

**Read and translate the text**

**FUNDAMENTALS OF AMERICAN FEDERALISM**

The former colonies, now «The United States of America», first operated under an agreement called the Articles of Confederation (1781). It was soon clear that this loose agreement among the states was not working well. The central, federal government was too weak, with too few powers for defense, trade, and taxation. In 1787, therefore, delegates from the states met in Philadelphia to revise the Articles, but they did much more than that. They wrote a completely new document, the Constitution, which after much argument, debate and compromise had been finished and officially adopted by 13 states by 1790.

The Constitution, the oldest still in force in the world, sets the basic form of government: three separate branches, each one having powers («checks and balances») over the others. It specifies the powers and duties of each federal branch of government, with all other powers and duties belonging to the states. The Constitution has been repeatedly amended to meet the changing needs of the nation, but it is still the «supreme law of the land.» The ultimate power under the Constitution is not given to the President (the executive branch), or the Supreme Court (the judicial branch). Nor does it rest with a political group or party. It belongs to «We, the People», in fact and in spirit. The Americans stated in the first ten Constitutional Amendments, known together as the Bill of Rights, what they considered to be the fundamental rights of any citizen. Among these rights are the freedom of religion, speech, and the press, the right of peaceful assembly, and the right to petition the government to correct wrongs. Other rights guarded the citizens against unreasonable searches, arrests, and seizures of property, and established the system of justice guaranteeing orderly legal procedures.

The Constitution divides the powers of the government into three branches: the executive headed by the President; the legislative, with both houses of Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives) and the judicial which is headed by the Supreme Court.

There are several basic principles which are found at all levels of American government. One of these is the «one person, one vote» principle which says that legislators are elected from geographical districts directly by the voters. Another fundamental principle is that because of the system of checks and balances, compromise in politics is a matter of necessity, not choice. For example, the House of Representatives controls spending and finance, so the President must have its agreement for his proposals and programs. He cannot declare war, either, without the approval of the Congress. In foreign affairs, he is also strongly limited. Any treaty must first be approved by the Senate. The rule is «the President proposes, but Congress dispose».

Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is made up of the Senate with 100 Senators, two from each state, and the House of Representatives, which has 435 members. One third of the Senators are elected every two years for six-year terms of office. The Senators represent all of the people in a state and their interests. The members of the House are elected every two years for two-year terms. They represent the population of «congressional districts» into which each state is divided. The number of Representatives from each state is based upon its population. For instance, California, the state with the largest population, has 45 Representatives, while Delaware has one. Congress makes all laws, and each House of the Congress has the power to introduce legislation.

The President of the United States is elected every four years for a four-year term of office, with no more than two full terms allowed. He must be a natural born citizen, at least 35 years old and for at least 14 years as resident of the country. As is true with Senators and Representatives, the President is elected directly by the voters. In other words, the political party with the most Senators and Representatives does not choose the President. This means that the President can be from one party, and the majority of those in the House of Representatives or Senate (or both) from another.

Within the Executive Branch, there are a number of executive departments. Currently these are the departments of State, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human resources, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, and Education. The head of each department is appointed by the President. None of the Secretaries, as the department heads are usually called, can also be serving in Congress or in another part of the government. When they meet together they are termed «the President Cabinet».

The third branch of government is the federal judiciary. Its main instrument is the Supreme Court, which watches over the other two branches. It determines whether or not their laws and acts are in accordance with the Constitution. The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and eight associate justices. They are nominated by the President but must be approved by the Senate. Once approved, they hold office as Supreme Court Justices for life. A decision of the Supreme Court cannot be appealed to any other court. Neither the President nor Congress can change their decisions.

**Exercise 1. Match English words with their Russian equivalents:**

Trade оборона

Taxation торговля

Defense налогообложение

The freedom of the press после долгих споров

To amend официально принят

To specify the powers and duties действующая Конституция

officially adopted определять права и обязанности

after much argument вносить поправки

the Constitution still in force свобода печати

**Exercise 2. Translate the following words and word combinations into English:**

Захват собственности, гарантировать справедливое судебное разбирательство, исполнительная, законодательная, судебная ветви власти, свобода собраний, свобода религии, устранять ошибки, голос (избирателя), одобрение Конгресса, избирать, заниматься законотворчеством, срок избрания, казначейство, назначать, Верховный судья, исполнять обязанности пожизненно.

**Exercise 3. Find the definitions of the following verbs in the English-English dictionary:**

To appeal; to nominate; to approve; to appoint; to elect; to allow; to amend; to dopt; to petition; to dispose.

Make your own sentences with these verbs.

**Exercise 4. Answer the following questions:**

1. What were the reasons for the American Constitution’s adoption?
2. What basic form of government does the Constitution set?
3. How are the first ten amendments to the Constitution called?
4. Which rights are guaranteed to American citizens by the Bill of Rights?
5. What are the major branches of the governmental power?
6. What are the basic principles of the U. S. Government?
7. What is the main responsibility of the Congress?
8. How long is the presidential term of office?
9. What are the areas for which the departments are responsible for?
10. What is the role the Supreme Court plays in the governmental structure of the USA?

**Exercise 5. Compare the governmental structure of the USA and Russian Federation. What is common and what is different?**

**Exercise 6. Make up short reports on the following topics (use additional information from the library research):**

1. The basic rights guaranteed by the US-Constitution and the Constitution of Russia.
2. The legislative branch of US-government in comparison with the Duma’s legislative functions.
3. The Senate and the Federal Assembly of Russia.

**Exercise 7. Role Play:**

One of the students is the newly elected President of the United States. He presents the appointed Cabinet to the nation through the TV-message, enumerates the members of his Cabinet and announces the responsibilities of each Secretary. Three classmates play parts of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Education. They announce their programs and answer the questions of the press. The role of the press is played by the rest of the students. Mind that the Secretary of State is responsible for foreign affairs.

**UNIT III. POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE USA**

**Read the following text.**

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The framers of the U.S. Constitution (The Founding Fathers) made no provision in the governmental structure for the functioning of political parties because they believed that parties were a source of corruption and an impediment to the

freedom of people to judge issues on their merits. They were sure that «factions» (their word for parties) might be able to seize control of the government. George Washington, in accordance with the thinking of his fellow Founding Fathers, included in his cabinet men of diverse political philosophies and policies.

The structure of government itself in the U. S. was conducive to the formation of political parties. The carefully elaborated system of checks and balances, established by the Constitution, makes executive and legislative cooperation necessary in the development of policy. Further, the division of legislative powers between the federal and state governments, as provided in the Constitution, makes it necessary for advocates of such policies as the regulation of commerce to seek representation or strength in both the federal and state legislatures. As these ends were too complex and difficult to achieve by impermanent groupings, the formation of permanent political organizations was inevitable.

Though there are quite a lot of political independent parties in the United States, the two-party system prevails in the country. The party balance is held between the major parties - the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. The main principle of both parties remains one and the same, which is to control the national government by gaining the majority of seats in the Congress and achieving the U. S. Presidency.

The fight between «elephants» and «donkeys» (these are tokens of Republicans and Democrats) never ends. One should never be misled by the parties’ names, for both programs do not differ much in goals. Proclamation of retaining democracy in the country and the unity of the American nation may be found both in a republican’s and a democrat's election speech.

The strength of each party depends much on the way it rules between the Congress and the presidential elections. The success of the Cabinet’s policy supplies the number of votes for the party candidate in the forthcoming elections. The party influence may decline in case the administration embodied by the President belonging to a certain party fails to be trusted by the nation. The nation’s mistrust to a President brings mistrust to the political party as a whole. This happened with the Republicans in 1974 when President Nixon got involved into «Watergate affair» (the nation-disapproved fact of the Democrats’ Headquarters in the Watergate Hotel bugged by the Republicans during the election campaign), this might have have happen to Democrats in 1998 because of President Bill Clinton's misbehavior with Monica Levinsky at his office.

**Exercise 1. Find Russian equivalents to the following:**

To make provision, governmental structure, to be a source of corruption, impediment, to judge issues, to seize control of sth, in accordance with, diverse, conducive, to elaborate, legislative, to seek strength, permanent, inevitable, to prevail, to gain the majority, to mislead, to retain democracy, to differ, goal, election, to rule, forthcoming, to decline, in case, embody, to fail to be trusted, to belong to a party, to get involved into sth, as a whole, to be bugged, misbehavior.

**Exercise 2. Translate into English:**

Источник коррупции; удерживать контроль над правительством; в соответствии с представлениями отцов-основателей; различные политические воззрения; тщательно разработанная система баланса власти; взаимодействие исполнительной и законодательной власти; нестабильные группировки; неминуемо; преобладать; завладеть большинством мест в Конгрессе; символ (талисман); сохранение демократии; предвыборная речь; обеспечить количество голов избирателей; грядущие выборы; партийное влияние; потерять доверие нации; быть вовлеченным в аферу; подслушивать (установить «жучок», подслушивающее устройство), непристойное поведение.

**Exercise 3. Answer the questions:**

1. Why didn’t the Founding Fathers make any provision in the governmental structure of the USA for the functioning of political parties?
2. Why was the formation of permanent political parties inevitable in the USA?
3. Between which two parties is the balance held in the country?
4. What is the main principle of both parties?
5. Do the programs of both parties differ?
6. What is proclaimed in every party candidate’s election speech?
7. Why may the party's influence decline?
8. What do you know about the «Watergate affair»?
9. What might have brought President Clinton to impeachment?

**Exercise 4. Translate the following into English:**

1. Джордж Вашингтон, в соответствии с воззрениями своих соратников - отцов-основателей американской конституции, включал в свой кабинет представителей различных политических взглядов.
2. Главным принципом обеих партий является один и тот же принцип - контроль за правительством, получение большинства мест в Конгрессе и приобретение президентского правления.
3. Не нужно обманываться названиями обеих партий, поскольку программы и той, и другой не слишком различаются.
4. Сила каждой партии во многом зависит от того, как она руководит страной между выборами в Конгресс и выборами Президента.
5. Успех политики кабинета обеспечивает количество голосов кандидату от партии на грядущих выборах.
6. Партийное влияние может уменьшиться в случае, если администрация, представляемая Президентом, который принадлежит партии, теряет доверие нации.

**Exercise 5. Discuss the following statements. Try to use the expressions that may reflect your opinion, agreement, or disagreement:**

The way I see it...; to my mind; as far as I can gather; in my opinion; I think; I can’t agree with what has just been stated; I see it just the other way; I totally agree with what has been said earlier; I don’t quite see the point; may be there’s another way to look at this problem, etc.

1. Two-party system is probably an ideal example of how democracy should be  
   retained in every country.
2. American party system must be a specimen to every state, and it could be  
   better for Russia to follow this example.
3. The President who belongs to a certain party must be beyond suspicion.
4. Democracy may be held not only by democratic parties, but also by left-wing  
   parties, such as Communists.
5. The government must avoid being party-based.

**Exercise 6. Make a report in class using your own library research on political parties in the USA. Be ready to answer your groupmates’ questions.**

**Exercise 7. Role Play:**

Imagine that you are the political leader of the Democratic Party. You are taking part in the press conference at which you are to announce the political grounds of your party and the party goals. Answer the questions of your classmates who are playing part of mass-media representatives. Try to use in your talk as many new expressions of the unit as possible.

**UNIT IV.**

**Read and translate the following text:**

**ECONOMY OF THE USA**

The United States has been the world’s leading industrial nation since early in the 20th century. Until the second half of the 19th century, agriculture remained the dominant US economic activity. After the Civil War (1861-1865), great advances were made in the production of basic industrial goods. By World War I, exports of manufactured goods had become more important than the export of raw materials; as manufacturing grew, agriculture became increasingly mechanized and efficient, employing fewer and fewer workers. The most important development in the economy since World War П has been the tremendous growth of service industries, such as government services, professional services, trade, and financial activities. Today, service industries are the most important sector of the economy, employing almost three-quarters of the workforce. Manufacturing employs approximately 17 per cent of the labour force and agriculture less than 3 per cent of the workers. Beginning in the 1930s, the government of the United States played an increasingly active role in the economy. Even though the US economy in the 1990s was based on free enterprise, the government regulated business in various ways. Some government regulations were drawn up to protect consumers from unsafe products and workers from unsafe working conditions; others were designed to reduce environmental pollution.

**National Output**

The US economy consists of three main sectors - the primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary economic activities are those directly involving the natural environment, including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining, and usually contribute about 4 per cent of the yearly GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Secondary economic activities involve processing or combining materials into new products, and include manufacturing and construction, this sector accounts for approximately an 23 per cent of the GDP. Tertiary economic activities involve the output of services rather than goods. Examples of tertiary activities include wholesale and retail trade, banking, government, and transport. The tertiary is the most important sector by far and accounts for almost 73 per cent of the annual GDP.

**Labour**

Primary occupations in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining engage only about 3 per cent of the employed population, and secondary occupations in manufacturing and construction employ about 23 per cent. The service activities in the large tertiary sector employ 79 per cent of the workers. The sphere of tourism is a striking instance of this. Each year in the late 1980s travellers in the United States spent over $300 billion on transport, food and drinks, various kinds of amusement, and motel and hotel accommodation. Travel and tourism have contributed substantially to the growth of such businesses as motels, restaurants, rental-car agencies, amusement parks, and various retail speciality shops. In recent decades visitors from overseas have become an increasingly important part of the US tourist business.

**Agriculture**

Farming accounts for about 2 per cent of the annual GDP and employs fewer than 3 per cent of US workers. Farmers produce not only enough to meet domestic needs, but also enough to enable the United States to export more farm products per year than any other nation in the world.

**Manufacturing**

The United States leads all nations in the value of its yearly manufacturing output. About 19 per cent of the annual GNP (Gross National Product) are accounted for by manufacturing, which employs more than one-sixth of the nation’s workers. Although manufacturing remains a key component of the US economy, it has declined in relative importance since the late 1960s.

*Manufacturing Regions:* Perhaps the most important change in recent decades has been the growth of manufacturing in regions outside the North-east and North Central regions. The nation’s industrial core developed in the North-east. This core is still the location of the greatest concentration of industry, but it has become relatively less significant than in the past. Within the North, manufacturing is centered in the Middle Atlantic and East North Central states. The greatest gains in manufacturing in the South have been in Texas, and the most phenomenal growth in the West has been in California, which in the early 1990s was the leading manufacturing state.

*Principal Products:* Ranked by value of manufacturer’s shipments, the leading categories of US manufactured goods are chemicals, transport equipment, processed foods, industrial machinery, and electronic equipment. Industrial machinery includes engines, farm equipment, various kinds of construction machinery, office machines, and refrigeration equipment. Transport equipment includes passenger cars, trucks, aeroplanes, space vehicles, ships and boats, and railway equipment. Michigan, with its huge car industry, is a leading producer of transport equipment. California is a leader in the aerospace industry. Texas and Louisiana are leaders in chemical manufacturing. The petroleum and natural gas produced and refined in both states are basic raw materials used in manufacturing many chemical products. Food processing is an important industry in several states noted for the production of food crops and livestock. California has a large fruit-and vegetable-processing industry. Meat packing in Illinois and dairy processing in Wisconsin make both states leaders in food manufacturing. The electronic equipment industry includes the manufacture of electric industrial apparatus, household appliances, radio and television equipment, electronic components, and communications devices. California, Illinois, Indiana, and Massachusetts are all leaders in the production of electronic equipment - one of the fastest growing sectors of US industry. Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan are leading states in the value of primary metal output. Ohio, which has a large concentration of tyre-manufacturing plants, has long been a leader in the rubber and plastics industry. Printing and publishing is a widespread industry, with newspapers published throughout the country. New York, with its book-publishing industry, is the leading state, but California, Illinois and Pennsylvania are also important. Other major US manufactures include textiles, clothing, precision instruments, timber, furniture, tobacco products, leather goods, and stone, clay, and glass items.

**Currency and Banking**

The US decimal currency consists of coins and paper money. According to federal law, only the US Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve System may issue all coins and a kind of paper currency known as United States notes. The Federal Reserve issues paper money called Federal Reserve notes. Banks in the United States are chartered under the laws of either a state or the federal government. State-chartered banks are regulated by officials of the state in which they are located. National banks are under the supervision of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. The Federal Reserve System is the central banking organization of the United States. All national banks are required by law to belong to the Federal Reserve System. State banks may voluntarily become members if they meet certain requirements. Each member bank operates within the district of 1 of the 12 Federal Reserve banks. About 60 per cent of all commercial banking offices belong to banks affiliated with the Federal Reserve System.

**Foreign Trade**

The United States is the world’s leading trading nation. The major imports include electrical and non-electrical machinery, basic manufactures, petroleum and petroleum products, clothing and footwear. Non-agricultural products usually account for approximately 90 per cent of the yearly value of exports and agricultural products for about 10 per cent. Machinery and transport equipment make up the leading categories of exports, amounting together to over 40 per cent of the value of all exports. Other leading exports include manufactured goods, such as textiles and iron and steel; processed foods; inedible crude materials, such as cotton, soya beans, and metal ores; cereals; chemicals; and mineral fuels and lubricants. Canada and Japan are the country’s most important trade partners; they provide the markets for about 32 per cent of total annual US exports and are the source of about 37 per cent of the nation's imports. Other leading trade partners include Mexico, Germany, China, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and South Korea.

**Exercise 1. Give Russian equivalents of the following:**

Free enterprise; Gross Domestic Product; financial activities; labour force; Gross National Product; dairy products; meat packing; per year; decimal currency; state-chartered banks; footwear; affiliated with; tertiary economic activities; was designed to; under the supervision of; unsafe working conditions; to protect consumers; hotel accommodation; to reduce environmental pollution

**Exercise 2. Find in the text and give English equivalents:**

Oптовая и розничная торговля, ведущий производитель, пищевая промышленность, в соответствии с федеральным законом, торговые партнеры, различными путями, некачественные товары, отвечать определенным требованиям, внести весомый вклад в, приблизительно 15% от объема импорта, основываться на, в последние десятилетия, сельскохозяйственные продукты, наполнять (обеспечивать) рынки, ежегодный объем экспорта.

**Exercise 3. Paraphrase the following sentences using the words and expressions from the above text:**

1. Some government regulations were aimed at reducing environmental contamination.
2. In the 19th century agriculture took the first priority (was prevailing) in the economy of the USA.
3. Travel and tourism made a major contribution to the growth of servicing industries.
4. During the last 10-20 years tourists from abroad have become important  
   for the US tourist business.
5. Food processing is an important industry in several states famous (known)  
   for the production of food crops and livestock.

**Exercise 4. Questions and tasks:**

1. What were the government regulations of 1990s aimed at?
2. Characterize the status on the US agriculture/manufacturing vis-à-vis the annual GDP.
3. What are the key components of the US GDP? How is it graded and which sector is the most important? Why? What activities are involved within each group?
4. Which businesses proved the most significant to the US economy within the tertiary sector? Give your own reasoning.
5. Under which regulations are the US banks chartered?
6. What are the main articles of the US exports and imports?
7. Why is the political and economic situation in Canada and Japan of special importance to the US economy?
8. Specify the main parameters of advanced economy as achieved by the US A in the 20th century.

**Exercise 5. Based on your knowledge obtained after reading the above text come up with your arguments concerning the failure of Russia’s economic advancement.**

**Exercise 6. Use some additional sources to make your reports in class on a particular economic activity involved within one of the three sectors of the US economy. Be prepared to answer your fellow-students’ questions.**

**UNIT V. AMERICAN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS**

**Read and translate the text:**

The United States is a young country. Its written history is only a few hundred years old. It is sometimes, in feet, called the «New World». Over the last four hundred years millions of people have come to start a new life in this «New World».

Americans say that they are not afraid of new ideas. They built the first skyscrapers and they put the first man on the moon. They like to be modern. They like exciting, modern cities, new houses, and new cars.

At the same time, Americans love old things. They like to visit historic houses and museums and remember the days of the «Wild West». Americans are interested in old traditions, but they are good at making new traditions too.

The people of the United States are a mixture of many different nationalities. In one city you can find people whose parents, grandparents or great-grandparents came from China, Africa, South America, Southeast Asia, and every European country. These different people brought to their new land a wonderful mixture of customs and traditions. The Germans brought Christmas trees. The Irish brought St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. The Scots brought Halloween.

There are new American festivals and traditions as well as the old ones. Only Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July. Rodeos and high school homecomings only happen in the U.S.

The idea of success is important to Americans. They believe that if they work hard they can have what they want and be what they want. This is part of what they call «the American Dream».

Perhaps this is why Americans are so hard-working. They do not take many vacations. There are only five national holidays that are celebrated in every state. These are New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. On these days, government offices, post offices, and banks are closed.

There are other important public holidays but they are not celebrated everywhere. Seven states, for example, do not celebrate Columbus Day. And some special days are not public holidays at all.

**Exercise 1. Find the Russian equivalents to the following words and word combinations and make English sentences of your own using them:**

Skyscraper, exciting, to be interested in, to be good at, mixture, as well as, homecoming, to work hard, hard-working, perhaps, to take vocation, to celebrate, at all.

**Exercise 2. Answer the questions:**

1. Why is the United States called «New World»?
2. Do Americans like new or old things more?
3. What can you say about the people of the USA? In what way does the composition of the population influence the life of the country?
4. What national holidays are celebrated in every state?
5. How do you understand the concept of «the American Dream»?
6. Is there any similarity between public holidays celebrated in Russia and the USA?

Exercise 3. Read and translate the following texts. Analyzing the information say what is different comparing to Russia

**January 1st - New Year’s Day**

On this day, families and friends meet for a meal. A common custom is to make promises for the New Year. People say, «I will work harder», or «I won’t smoke this year». But they often forget these promises on January 2nd!

On New Year’s Day there are big football games and colorful parades. Not everyone can go to see them, so many people watch them on television.

In the U.S. there arc four different time zones, so it is possible to spend the whole day watching parades, football games, and New Year celebrations.

**February 14th - (St.) Valentine’s Day**

Nobody knows very much about St. Valentine. One story is that he was murdered by Roman soldiers in the third century A.D. because he was a Christian. He gave a poor girl some money before he died, and so other Christians called him the saint of love. On this day, children write their names on cards with hearts on them, and give them to their classmates. Teenagers and adults give card, presents, and flowers to their boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands, and wives. Some people don’t sign their cards because they want their name to be a secret.

**April 1st - April Fools’ Day**

A friend says, «Oh no! How did you get that big red mark on your face?» You look in the mirror. There is no mark! Then your friend says, «April fool!» Nobody is sure when or why this tradition began. One story is that it began in France in the sixteenth century, hi 1564; the king of France changed the first day of the new year from April 1st to January 1st. Some people did not accept this, and on April 1st people made fun of them. Nowadays people play tricks on each other, so you have to watch and listen very carefully on this day.

**Easter**

The Easter weekend is in late March or early April, but the exact date changes each year. Easter is a Christian holiday which celebrates the day when Jesus came back from the dead. On Easter Sunday people give colored and chocolate eggs to each other and send cards. Some cities have Easter parades with games and sports and a big Easter egg hunt.

**July 4th - Independence Day**

On this day in 1776, the United States declared her independence from England. It was the beginning of a new nation. On the Fourth of July families and friends celebrate, and every town and city has parades, games, and sports with prizes. There are picnics and barbecues, and in the evening there are big firework displays.

**October 31st - Halloween**

In the evening you may hear a knock on your door. Outside there are children dressed as ghosts and witches, holding a bag. They shout, «Trick or treat!» Give them a piece of candy or they may put soap on your window. A popular tradition is to cut the shape of a face in a pumpkin, put a light inside it, then put it in the window.

**November llth-Veterans’ Day**

This is a special day to remember all the people who fought in the wars - the living as well as the dead. There are memorial services, special dinners and speeches.

**Fourth Thursday of November - Thanksgiving**

In 1621 William Bradford, the Governor of Massachusetts, decided to have a thanksgiving dinner for all the people. He wanted to thank God for many things. It was a difficult year, but the people still had food to eat. He wanted a way to share this good fortune with the American Indians who helped them. That meal lasted three days. Today the traditional Thanksgiving meal is similar to the first. Usually there is turkey, sweet potatoes, corn, and pumpkin pie. Thanksgiving is a special day for families to get together.

**December 25th - Christmas Day**

This is the biggest holiday of the year and the one many people - especially children - enjoy the most. Soon after Thanksgiving people start sending Christmas cards and decorate their houses. Almost every home has a Christmas tree. German soldiers started this tradition in the U.S. during the Revolutionary War of 1776.

The evening before Christmas Day is called Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve many people go to church and sing Christmas carols, and the President gives his Christmas message on TV. Parents tell children that Santa Claus will come to their house in the night and leave presents for them.

On Christmas Day people open their presents and then they prepare a traditional dinner of turkey or ham with vegetables, salads, and desserts. There are also special cookies, candies, nuts, and fruits. Christmas dinner is eaten late in the afternoon. During the day many families watch special Christmas TV and children play with their new toys. Some people go ice-skating or drive around town to look at the decorations.

**December 31st - New Year’s Eve**

On New Year’s Eve people celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the new one. Many people go to private parties, but some go to large public celebrations. Thousands of people gather in Times Square in New York, for example. At midnight exactly, everyone sings the all Scottish song «Auld Lang Syne».

**Exercise 4. Role Play:**

Imagine that you are taking part in a student meeting of the Russian-American Friendship Society. Half the group of students is from the USA and the other half is from Russia. Feel free to ask questions and compare the people, customs and traditions of both countries, taking into account a) the national composition of the population, b) the history of both about countries, c) the dreams of the people, d) public holidays. Try to discuss as much as possible about both countries.

**США СЕГОДНЯ**

Ученые и аналитики единодушно утверждают: 80-е годы в истории Соединенных Штатов Америки были, возможно, наиболее успешным десятилетием во всем XX столетии. Главное в том, что страна оказалась буквально наводнена электроникой: видеомагнитофоны имеют почти две трети американских семей, радиотелефонов, автоответчиков, телефаксов и персональных компьютеров - без счета. Используя персональный компьютер и обычную телефонную линию, можно подключится к компьютеру любой крупной библиотеки мира и извлечь из его памяти на свой экран нужную информацию. Не об этом ли мечтали многие поколения ученых?

Эффективная медицинская пропаганда способствовала снижению спроса на мясо, спиртные напитки и сигареты. В пригородных поездах уже нет вагонов для курящих, курение запрещено во многих общественных местах.

Значительно сокращены налоги на доходы (income tax), что обеспечило мощный экономический подъем и привело к повышению занятости.

Е.Л. Власова, С.М. Костенко «Focus on the USA», Санкт-Петербург, «Наука» С.-Петербургское отделение, 1992 г.

**UNIT VI.**

**Read and translate the text**

**THE AMERICAN CENTURY**

Denims and hot dogs, skyscrapers and supermarkets, mass production and rock music - what do all these have in common? One thing is that they can be found today all over the world. Another is that all of them were born in the United States. The country which for most of its existence had been an importer of influences has become in the twentieth century a major exporter of them. In many areas of life, American popular tastes and attitudes have conquered the world.

By the 1960s filmed television programs had become an important American export. Other countries found it cheaper to buy American programs than to make their own.

In music, the process of Americanization could be seen most clearly in the huge international popularity of rock. Rock began as «rock-and-roll», a music that was first played in the 1950s. It came from the American South, and combined black blues with the country music of working class whites to produce a heavily rhythmic - «rocking» -sound that appealed especially to young people.

Many of rock and roll’s first stars were black, performers. But the unchallenged «King» of rock-and-roll was a young southern white named Elvis Presley.

The Americanization of popular taste and habits was not restricted to entertainment. The growing popularity of hamburgers, fried chicken and other easily prepared «fast food» spread American eating habits all over the world. Blue jeans and T-shirts Americanized the dress of people on every continent. And supermarkets Americanized the everyday experience of shopping for millions.

In the 1950s architects working in the United States began to design skyscrapers whose steel skeletons were covered by outer walls - or «curtains» - of glass and metal. One of the earliest examples was Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson’s Seagram Building in New York. It was American buildings like this that inspired similar «glass box» office and apartment buildings in cities all over the world.

Such buildings gave visual expression to the impact of the United States on the twentieth-century world. They were gleaming symbols of a name that some historians were giving to the century even before it reached its end. The name was «the American Century».

**Exercise 1. Guess the meaning of the following international English words without using adictionary.**

Supermarket, mass, rock music, importer, exporter, popular, process, international, popularity, skeleton, design, metal, office, visual, expression, symbol, blues, class, continent, million.

**Exercise 2. Give Russian equivalents and memorize the following words and word combinations.**

Skyscraper, to have in common, existence, influence, major, taste, habit, attitude, to conquer, huge, to appeal, to restrict, entertainment, to spread, experience, architect, to inspire, apartment, building, similar, impact, gleaming.

Exercise 3. Make up sentences of your own using the vocabulary of exercise 2.

**Exercise 4. Give corresponding nouns to the following verbs and translate them into Russian. If yon are in doubt consult a dictionary.**

To exit, to produce, to import, to influence, to americanize, to play, to combine, to perform, to challenge, to name, to restrict, to entertain, to prepare, to design, to cover, to inspire.

**Exercise 5. Agree or disagree, justifying your point of view.**

1. Denims and hot dogs, skyscrapers and supermarkets can be found today all over the world.
2. By the 1960s filmed television programs had become an important American import.
3. American popular tastes and attitudes have conquered the world.
4. In music the process of Americanization could be seen most clearly in huge international popularity of classical music.
5. American skyscrapers inspired similar «glass box» office and apartment building in cities all aver the world.
6. The 20th Century should be called «the American Century».

Exercise 6. Answer the following questions.

1. What American things can be found today all over the world?
2. In hat areas of life have American popular tastes and attitudes conquered the world?
3. Why did filmed television programs become an imported American export?
4. The process of Americanization could be clearly seen in music, couldn’t it? Could  
   popular rock stars?
5. What food spread American eating habits all over the world?
6. What do skyscrapers symbolized and why?

**Exercise 7. Role Play.**

The group of students is divided into two teams. The first one represents patriots of Russia who are against Americanization of our country; the other one thinks that Russia could only benefit from the process of Americanization. They are having a dispute: «Who is a real patriot of Russia?»

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