

CHAPITRE 4

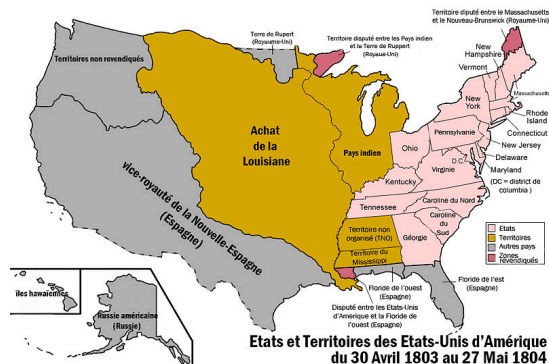
Dates clés de l'histoire des Etats-unis

1776 : Signing of the Declaration of Independence :

The declaration of independence itself, mostly authored by Thomas Jefferson but heavily influenced by British and French philosophers, was a catalogue of wrongs perpetrated against the colonists by King George III of Great Britain, but was also the first collective American statement concerning the rights of the governed to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”. July 4th, 1776 has been the National day since the end of the War of 1812.

1803 : The Louisiana Purchase :

The United States acquired the vast plain between the Mississippi River on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west, thus doubling the size of the country. The territory of Louisiana has been sold by Napoleon to Jefferson for 15 million dollars.



1862-1865 : The Civil War :

The Civil war, which has killed 634000 soldiers, is due to the contrast between free labour of the Northerners and slave labour of the Southerners, to mismanagement of federal structure, and to the moral dilemma with slavery and Christian duty.



1908 : Henry Ford introduces the Model T

Henry Ford opened his Ford Motor Company in Detroit in 1903. Using a system of standardized parts and assembly lines, Ford had the will to produce cheap cars, accessible to all. The Model T production process changed the way America worked and his approach to labour.

1941 : The Japanese Bomb Pearl Harbor :

December 7th 1941 is “*a day that will live in infamy*” declared President Franklin Roosevelt. American forces suffered their most devastating loss in history, with 360 aircraft and many warships destroyed during the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. This is why USA got engaged in World War II.