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Compact - a declaration of self-government that would later be echoed in the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. British attempts to assert authority in its 13 North American colonies led to the French and Indian War (1757-63). The British were victorious but were left with a nasty war debt, which they tried to recoup by imposing new taxes. The rallying cry no taxation without representation united the colonies, who ceremoniously dumped caffeinated cargo overboard during the Boston Tea Party. Besieged British general Cornwallis surrendered to American commander George Washington five years later at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781. In the 19th century, America's mantra was Manifest Destiny. A combination of land purchases, diplomacy and outright wars of conquest had by 1850 given the US roughly its present shape. In 1803, Napoleon dumped the entire Great Plains for a pittance, and Spain chipped in with Florida in 1819. The Battle of the Alamo during the 1835 Texan Revolution paved the way for Texan independence from Mexico, and the war with Mexico (1846-48) secured most of the southwest, including California. The systematic annihilation of the buffalo hunted by the Plains Indians, encroachment on their lands, and treaties not worth the paper they were written on led to Native Americans being herded into reservations, deprived of both their livelihoods and their spiritual connection to their land. Nineteenth-century immigration drastically altered the cultural landscape as settlers of predominantly British stock were joined by Central Europeans and Chinese, many attracted by the 1849 gold rush in California. The South remained firmly

committed to an agrarian life heavily reliant on African American slave labor. Tensions were on the rise when abolitionist Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860. The South seceded from the Union, and the Civil War, by far the bloodiest war in Americas history, began the following year. The North prevailed in 1865, freed the slaves and introduced universal adult male suffrage. Lincolns vision for reconstruction, however, died with his assassination. Americas trouncing of the Spaniards in 1898 marked the USAs ascendancy as a superpower and woke the country out of its isolationist slumber. 相关推荐：#0000ff>托福阅读练习：为何吃黑巧克力保护心血管健康 #0000ff>托福考试阅读练习：性格决定外表 #0000ff>托福阅读练习：夫妻为何越长越像 #0000ff>托福阅读练习：世界上最小国家正在出售 #0000ff>托福趣味阅读：23个有意思的生活真相 #0000ff>新托福阅读练习：女性25岁后结婚更持久 #0000ff>新托福阅读练习：行星撞地球将使人类成“吸血鬼” 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)