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The History of North Carolina

Student Volume



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The History of North Carolina



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The History of North Carolina
Student Volume

Core Knowledge In Your State™

Chapter 1

The Land and People of North Carolina

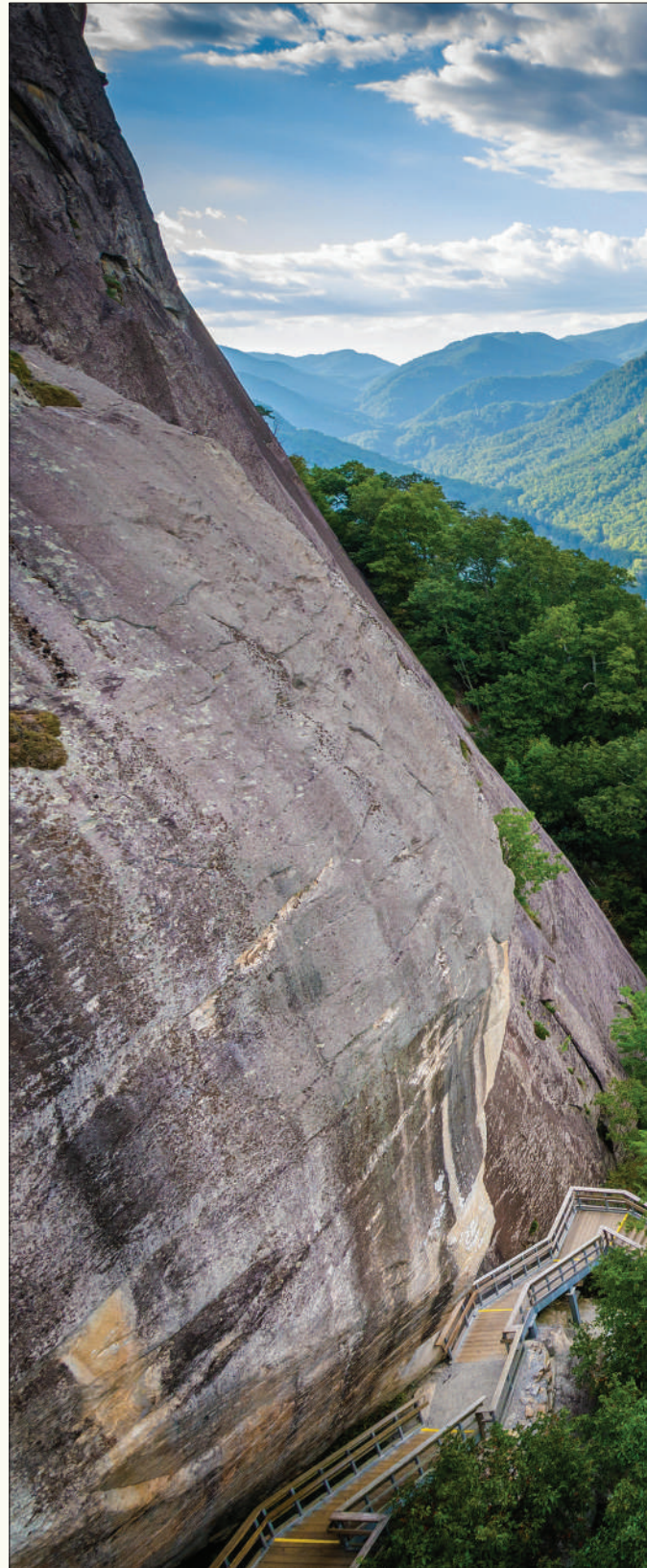
Big Question

What geographical and human features define North Carolina?



Welcome to North Carolina

Standing atop North Carolina's Mount Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi, you behold the breathtaking sight of the Blue Ridge Mountains. North Carolina is a state of dramatic contrasts. Rugged mountains in the west give way to rolling hills and fertile plains, eventually meeting the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. This diverse geography has influenced the state's history, culture, and economy, making North Carolina a remarkable place to live and explore.





This view of Chimney Rock State Park in western North Carolina highlights the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In 2025, the area was severely damaged by Hurricane Helene, and rebuilding efforts are ongoing.

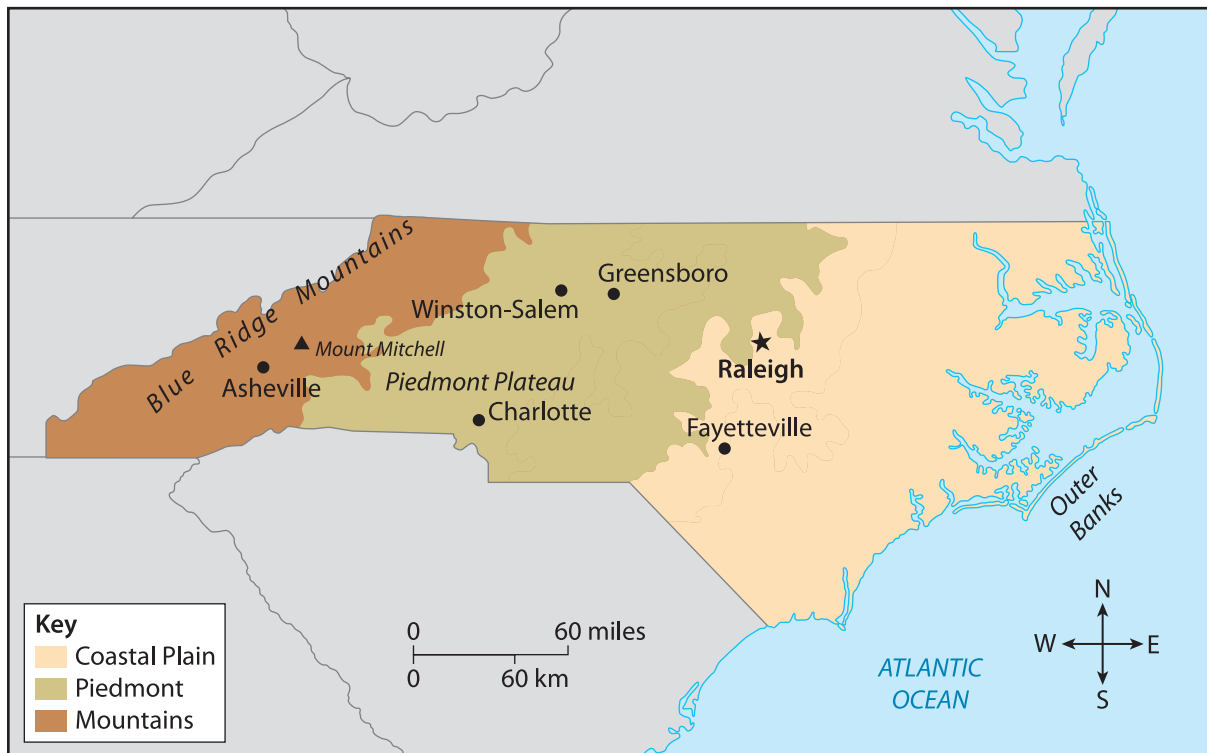
Geography of North Carolina

North Carolina is located in the southeastern United States, with the Atlantic Ocean to its east and shared borders with four states: Virginia to the north, South Carolina and Georgia to the south, and Tennessee to the west. The state is divided into three distinct physical regions: the Mountains, the Piedmont, and the Coastal Plain.

The Mountain region, located in the western part of the state, is dominated

by the Appalachian Mountains. These mountains stretch along much of the eastern United States. In fact, if you hike the entire Appalachian Trail, you'll walk all the way from Georgia to Maine! The Appalachian Mountains contain the Great Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains, which offer beautiful scenery and opportunities for outdoor recreation, like hiking to a waterfall in the summer and skiing and snowboarding down the slopes in the winter. One peak in the Blue Ridge Mountains—Mount Mitchell—is the highest peak in the eastern United States. It reaches an elevation of 6,684 feet (2,037 m).

North Carolina's Regions



The Coastal Plain covers nearly half of North Carolina's area.

The Piedmont region is a **plateau** that lies between the Mountains and the Coastal Plain. Characterized by rolling hills, this region is home to major cities like Charlotte, the state's largest city and one of the largest cities in the United States by population. The Piedmont's fertile land and moderate climate make the region excellent for year-round farming.

Vocabulary

plateau, n. a large area of high, generally flat ground

The Coastal Plain extends eastward from the Piedmont to the Atlantic Ocean.

This region has a variety of landscapes, including fertile farmland, extensive forests, and the famous Outer Banks. The Outer Banks are a chain of **barrier islands** known for beautiful beaches and diverse **ecosystems**.

Vocabulary

barrier island, n. a long, narrow island that runs parallel to the mainland coast and helps protect it from storms and erosion

ecosystem, n. all the living and nonliving things that interact in a given area



The Outer Banks are popular with tourists drawn to their natural beauty and the opportunity to enjoy water sports.

North Carolina's location on the Atlantic seaboard makes it an ideal location for moving goods and people. Its Atlantic ports, like Wilmington, are crucial for facilitating foreign and domestic trade. The state's geography has influenced where people have settled, with early communities often developing along rivers and in areas with fertile soil for farming.



Think Twice

How might North Carolina's access to the Atlantic Ocean have contributed to its economic development?

North Carolina's geography presents both opportunities and challenges for its residents. The fertile lands of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain have supported agriculture for centuries. The state's landscapes provide opportunities for tourism and recreation, attracting visitors from around the world. The state's extensive coastline supports trade and transportation. However, the mountainous land in the west can make transportation difficult due to the steep slopes, narrow valleys, and limited access routes. In addition, coastal areas are exposed to the dangers of hurricanes and can lose land due to erosion.

The state's climate, while generally mild, also poses challenges. Hurricanes can cause

significant damage and disrupt people's lives. Droughts can hurt agriculture and dry up water resources. North Carolina's natural resources, including forests and minerals, have fueled various industries. However, harvesting wood and extracting minerals can damage the environment.

Despite these challenges, North Carolina has used its geographic advantages throughout its history to become a thriving state.



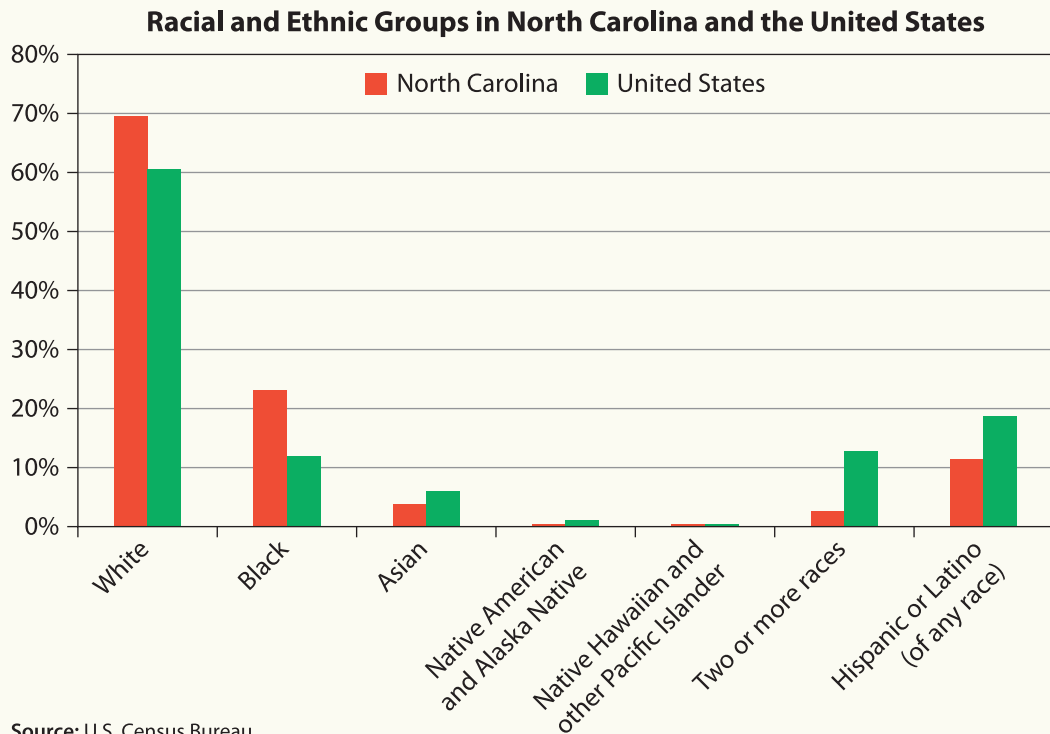
Who Lives in North Carolina?

North Carolina has seen significant population growth in recent decades, fueled by **migration** within the United States and from other countries.

Vocabulary

migration, n. the act of moving from one place to another to live or work

North Carolina's population grew by about a third from 2000 to the 2020s. The state has seen a surge in immigration from countries such as India and Vietnam and those in Latin America. These new residents bring their unique traditions and skills, enriching the state culturally and contributing to economic growth.



Together, African Americans and Hispanics or Latinos make up about 34 percent of the population of North Carolina, slightly more than in the nation as a whole.

People are drawn to North Carolina for many reasons, including its growing economy, affordable housing, and high quality of life. The Research Triangle, an area encompassing Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, is a major hub for technology and research. It attracts skilled workers from around the globe. The state's mild climate and beautiful natural scenery also draw new residents.



Think Twice

What factors contributed to North Carolina's recent population growth?



Cultures of North Carolina

North Carolina's population is as diverse as its landscape. Influenced by Native American roots, European settlement, and the African American experience, the state showcases a rich blend of cultural influences.

North Carolina's many ethnic, racial, and religious groups each add their own flavor to the state's cultural identity. African American communities have deeply

influenced the state's music, food, and art. The Gullah Geechee people, living along the coast, maintain a distinct culture with roots in West Africa. They speak Gullah, a creole language that blends English with West African languages. Their stories and songs often feature African animal characters. Hispanic and Latino communities bring varied traditions from across Latin America. From festivals celebrating Día de los Muertos to the music of Caribbean salsa, Hispanic and Latino culture enriches North Carolina.

The Cherokee, the state's largest Native American tribe, continue to celebrate their rich cultural traditions through events like the Cherokee Indian Fair. They are one of eight state-recognized tribes in North Carolina, which also includes the Coharie, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, the Meherrin, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, the Sappony, and the Waccamaw Siouan.

In addition, religious diversity also shapes North Carolina's culture. Various religious traditions contribute to local customs, festivals, and community practices. From Baptist and Methodist congregations to growing Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist communities, the state is home to many belief systems. This diversity is evident in places of worship and cultural celebrations

that bring different communities together. Additionally, religious organizations play a role in social services, education, and activism.

Find Out the Facts



Research the Gullah Geechee culture of the North Carolina coast. How have they preserved their unique traditions and language?

North Carolina's geographic regions have also helped create distinct cultural identities. The Mountain region is known for bluegrass music, folk art, and storytelling traditions. The Coastal Plain, shaped by its location near the ocean, has developed traditions linked to the sea. This is evident in its seafood cookery, fishing traditions, and coastal style of architecture.

North Carolinians take great pride in their **heritage**, celebrating it through festivals and community gatherings. These events showcase the state's diversity through music, dance, food, and art. Each year, the North Carolina State Fair brings together people from across the state to celebrate the state's agricultural heritage and enjoy traditional foods and

Vocabulary

heritage, n. something that is inherited by one person or group from an older person or group

entertainment. Of course, no discussion of North Carolina culture would be complete without mentioning its famous barbecue. Variations spark friendly debates about which region's version is best in the state. And with new migrants to the state, new food cultures are part of North Carolina's changing identity.

North Carolina also has a thriving arts scene, demonstrated in the work of artists, musicians, and writers. Asheville, Raleigh, and Durham are known for their galleries, theaters, and concert halls. The state has a long tradition of handicrafts as well, including pottery, weaving, and woodworking.

The people of North Carolina also value education. The state is home to major universities, including Duke University, Wake Forest University, and the University of North Carolina System, the first public university in the United States to open and



From the bluegrass music of the Appalachian Mountains to its world-famous barbecue, North Carolina offers a rich history of traditions, music, and art.

to graduate students. These institutions attract students and scholars from around the world.

North Carolina has a distinct architectural heritage, too, ranging from historic homes to modern skyscrapers. The Biltmore Estate, an example of Gilded Age (1870s–1890s) architecture, draws more than a million visitors each year to Asheville. They walk through the highly decorated rooms and stroll through the elaborate gardens and grounds.

North Carolina has made important contributions to American culture, especially in music, literature, and sports.

Writers like Thomas Wolfe and Maya Angelou both called North Carolina home. Sports are also a central part of North Carolina culture, with the Charlotte Motor Speedway and NASCAR Hall of Fame drawing fans from around the world. Professional sports teams like the Carolina Panthers, Carolina Hurricanes, Charlotte Hornets, and Charlotte FC bring excitement and a sense of community to the state. Rivalries among the state's college sports teams are celebrated. The so-called "Tobacco Road rivalry" between Duke University and the University of North Carolina is one of the most intense and well-known in college basketball.

The two schools are located just ten miles (16 km) apart in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina. These rivalries add to the excitement and passion of college sports in North Carolina, and they help to create a sense of community and pride among fans.



Think Twice

How does the diversity of North Carolina's population contribute to the state's identity?



The North Carolina Economy

North Carolina has a **dynamic** economy that has evolved over time. Historically, agriculture played a dominant role, with tobacco, cotton, and sweet potatoes being major crops. Before the Civil War, North Carolina's chief exports were "tar" products: tar, turpentine, and pitch—thus, the nickname "the Tar Heel State." Today, the state thrives on a mix of industries, including manufacturing, technology, finance, and tourism. Tourism draws visitors to the state's scenic mountains,

vibrant cities, and coastal attractions.

Popular destinations include the Great Smoky Mountains, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Outer Banks, and historic sites like the Biltmore Estate.

North Carolina is still a significant agricultural producer. Crops today include sweet potatoes, tobacco, soybeans, cotton, corn, and peanuts. The state is also a leading producer of livestock, including hogs, poultry, and cattle. Manufacturing is an important part of the state economy as well. North Carolina produces a wide range of goods, from furniture and textiles to medicines and parts for the aerospace industry. The state's natural resources, including forests and minerals like granite, clay, feldspar, and mica, also contribute to its economic output.

Situated on the East Coast, North Carolina benefits from access to major highways, railways, airports, and seaports. This extensive network promotes trade within the United States and internationally. **Interstate highways** like I-40, I-85, and I-95 connect North Carolina to major markets in other states. Airports like

Vocabulary

dynamic, adj. characterized by constant change, activity, or progress

Vocabulary

interstate highway, n. a major highway that runs through more than one state



Charlotte, North Carolina's largest city, is a major financial and business center.

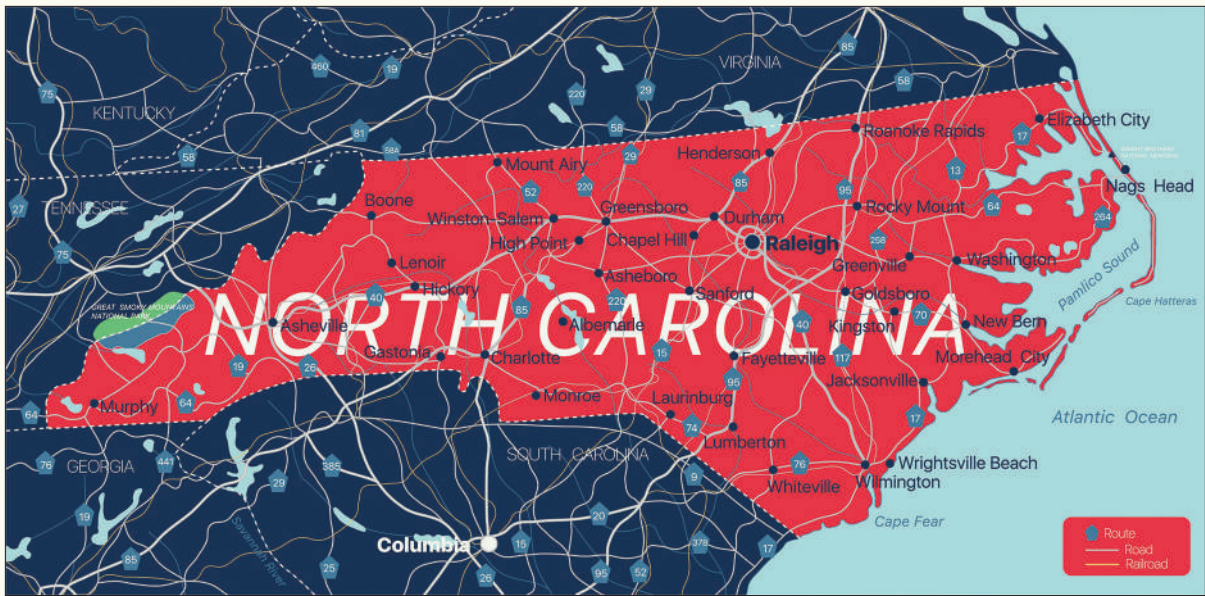
Charlotte Douglas International Airport are hubs for domestic and international travel. The state's ports, like the Port of Wilmington, handle a large amount of cargo traffic, further boosting the state's economy.

North Carolina's transportation **infrastructure** is key to its economic success. The network of highways, railways, airports, and ports ensures the efficient movement of goods and people. These routes connect businesses and consumers to markets across the state, nation, and world.

Vocabulary

infrastructure, n. the public works system that includes roads, bridges, water, public transportation, etc.

In recent years, North Carolina has also worked to update its transportation systems. For example, the Triangle Expressway, the state's first modern toll road, saves travelers time by collecting tolls electronically. This approach not only benefits North Carolina but also helps make the nation's transportation network run more smoothly. The state has invested in enhancing public transportation and highways through the implementation of the 2040 plan. This initiative focuses



The major highways and rail lines connect North Carolina's largest cities. Smaller roads connect rural communities to this network.

on improving aviation, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, public transportation, ferries, ports, and highway infrastructure. The aim is to upgrade transportation systems to accommodate the estimated 13.5 million people expected to live in North Carolina by 2040.



Think Twice

How do you think North Carolina's investment in transportation infrastructure, like highways and airports, might impact the state's economy?

North Carolina has also emerged as a leader in technology, particularly in the Research Triangle region. This area,

encompassing Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, is home to many high-tech companies, research institutions, and universities. The Research Triangle Park has been important in attracting skilled workers and driving economic growth in the state. The region is a hub for both hardware and software development, with companies specializing in semiconductors, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.

The state has seen a large rise in businesses owned by women and by people from diverse ethnic and racial groups. Their success benefits business owners and their families and contributes to economic growth in their communities. Efforts to



The headquarters building of Research Triangle Park is located in the center of the research triangle.

support women and minority business owners and ensure equal opportunities for all North Carolinians contribute to the state's economic growth. Groups like the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of North Carolina work to open opportunities to people who have faced barriers to economic participation. A similar group supports Asian American business owners. Lumbee Guaranty Bank, the first Native American-owned bank in the state, provides financial services for Indigenous families.

North Carolina faces both opportunities and challenges in its economic future. The state must continue to invest in education and worker training. Doing so will help its people have the skills

and knowledge needed to compete in a rapidly changing world economy. It must also address issues such as economic uncertainty and environmental sustainability to ensure a prosperous future for all its residents.

Writers' Corner

Imagine you are a travel writer creating a brochure to attract tourists to North Carolina. What are some of the state's most appealing features that you would highlight?



Chapter 2

The Governments of North Carolina

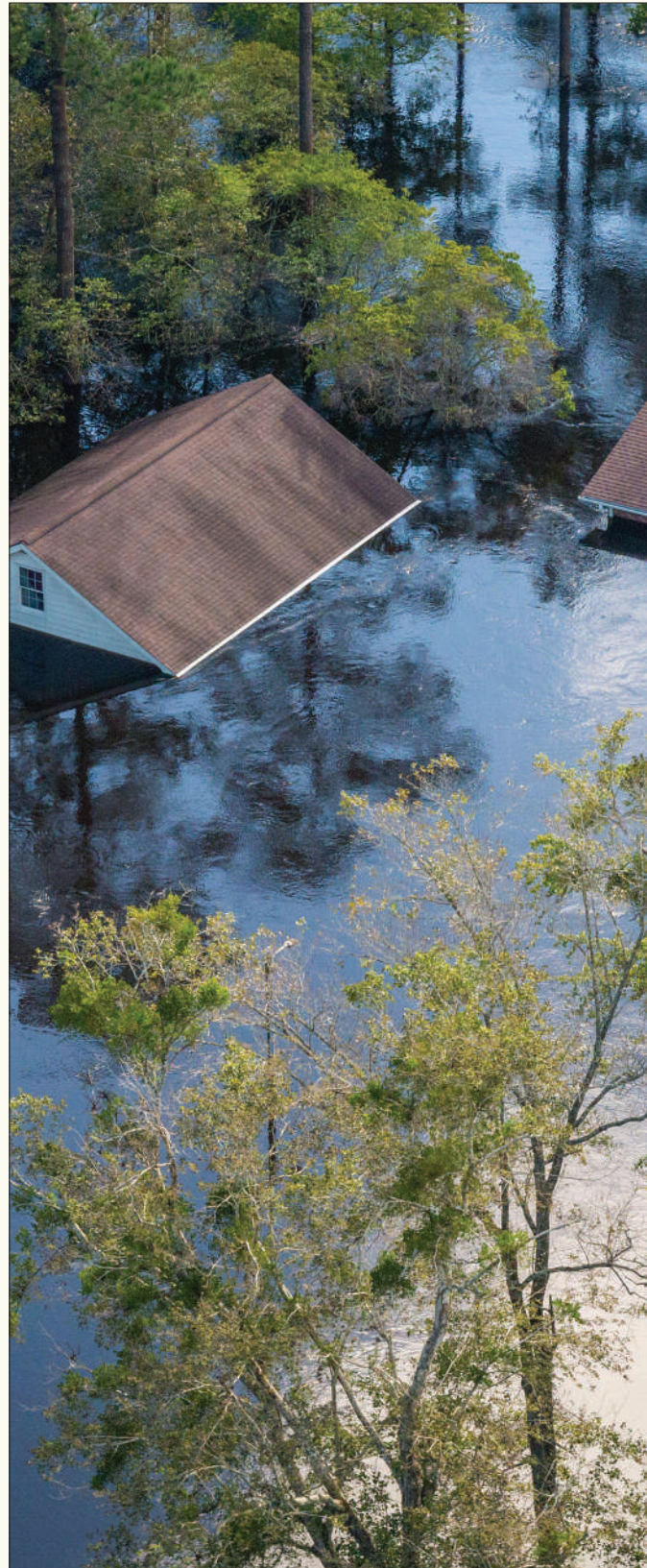
Big Question

How do North Carolina's different levels of government work?



Working Together

A hurricane bears down on the North Carolina coast. The winds howl, rain lashes the shore, and waves crash against coastal homes. In the face of such a powerful force of nature, it's not just individuals who need to prepare and respond—it's the government, too. From the local town council to the governor's office to the president of the United States, different levels of government spring into action to protect citizens and help communities recover.





Hurricane Florence brought destructive winds and flooding to North Carolina in 2018, requiring coordinated efforts from all levels of government to provide relief and aid recovery.



Foundations of Democracy

North Carolina's government, much like that of the United States, is built on democratic ideals. These ideals, outlined in documents like the North Carolina state constitution and the U.S. Constitution, are guiding principles for how the government should function.

Both the United States and North Carolina constitutions emphasize principles like equality, liberty, representation, limited government, and separation of powers. They state that all people are considered equal under the law. Individuals have the freedom to make choices and pursue their own goals, as long as they don't harm others. Citizens also have the right to elect representatives who will voice their interests in government. They elect members of the United States Congress as well as the state legislature. They also choose who will represent them at the local level.

These principles are put into action in many ways. The justice system must follow certain processes to ensure that all people are treated fairly. The government is tasked with protecting individual rights, such as freedom of speech and religion,

so people can express themselves freely without fear of government interference or suppression. Free and fair elections allow citizens to choose their leaders. A system of checks and balances is meant to ensure that no single branch of government becomes too powerful.

Although North Carolina embraced these democratic ideals early in its history, they were initially applied primarily to white men, excluding women and minorities. Through the efforts of citizens, **activists**, and **reformers**, the reach of these principles has expanded to include a wider range of people than in the past.

Vocabulary

activist, n. a person who takes action, such as petitioning or protesting, to promote support for a particular public policy or position on an issue

reformer, n. a person who works to change or improve a system or institution, often with the goal of making it more fair or just

federalism, n. a system of government in which the national government shares power with other levels of government, such as the states



Think Twice

Why is it important for a government to have a written constitution outlining its principles and structure?



Levels of Government

The people of North Carolina are served by different levels of government, each with its own responsibilities and powers. The United States operates under a system of **federalism**, which divides governing authority between the national (federal) government and the state governments. States, in turn, share some powers with local governments in counties, cities, and towns. Federal and state governments also have a power-sharing relationship with tribal governments.

The system of federalism in the United States is guided by the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution is the highest law in the entire country. This clause establishes that federal law is the “supreme law of the land.” States can make their own laws, but those laws can’t go against the Constitution or any federal laws. A law that goes against the Constitution is considered “unconstitutional” and thus illegal. If a

Think Twice

Why might it be important for the federal government to have the power to make laws that all states must follow?





The North Carolina State Capitol building in Raleigh is where the state legislature meets and where the governor's office is located.

state or local law conflicts with a federal law, the federal law takes precedence.

Like the federal government, North Carolina's state government is organized into three branches: the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch. Just as the executive branch of the country is headed by the president, the executive branch of a state is headed by its governor. The state executive branch enforces state laws, manages the state budget, and oversees state agencies. The state legislative branch is known as the General Assembly. It makes state laws, approves the budget, and oversees the executive branch by controlling the state budget, appointing some positions, overriding vetoes, and passing laws that limit executive power. The General Assembly is divided into two houses, or chambers. The House of Representatives

has 120 members, and the Senate has fifty members. Elected members of both houses serve two-year terms. The state judicial branch interprets state laws and administers justice through the court system. Depending on the court they work in, justices and judges serve either eight- or four-year terms.

Local governments are responsible for providing services and addressing the needs of citizens at a community level. North Carolina is divided into one hundred counties. These county governments are responsible for services such as schools, roads, and public safety. Within these counties, cities and towns function as incorporated **municipalities**. They provide services like water, sanitation, and local law enforcement.

North Carolina also recognizes the **sovereignty** of Native American tribes living within its borders. Tribal governments, such as those of the Eastern Band of Cherokee, have the authority to govern their own communities, make their own laws, and provide services to their members. These are separate

Vocabulary

municipality, n. a city or town that has the right to govern itself

sovereignty, n. the right of a group of people to govern themselves

from state and local governments. This sovereignty allows tribes to maintain their cultural heritage, manage their resources, and address the specific needs of their communities. They also collaborate with state and federal governments on shared concerns.

All these levels of government, from the federal to municipal, make laws that apply to the people in their area.

Congress makes federal laws that apply to the entire nation. The North Carolina General Assembly makes state laws that all people in the state must follow. County governments and city councils make local laws and ordinances that apply within their borders. Those laws may have to follow rules set by state law, however. For example, in North Carolina, state law mandates that a school bus stop must be

Levels of Government in the United States

	Federal Government	Tribal Government	State Government	Local and Municipal Government
Authority	Governs the entire nation	Self-governing within tribal lands	Governs the entire state	Governs a specific county, city, or town
Examples	U.S. Congress, president, Supreme Court	The Eastern Band of Cherokee	North Carolina General Assembly, governor	Mecklenburg County, City of Charlotte
Specific responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaring war • Coining money • Making laws affecting interstate and foreign commerce • Establishing a postal system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulating tribal membership • Establishing tribal courts • Providing health care and education to tribal members • Managing tribal lands and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting standards for schools to follow • Issuing licenses and permits • Protecting public health and safety • Regulating commerce within the state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running local schools • Providing water and sanitation services • Maintaining local roads and infrastructure • Enforcing local laws and ordinances • Managing local parks
Shared responsibilities	Provides funding and sets broad guidelines for state and local governments	Cooperates with state and local governments on issues like environmental protection and law enforcement	Shares responsibility with the federal government for things like transportation, health care, and education	Works with the state and federal governments to provide services and address community needs

In the U.S. system of federalism, different levels of government—federal, tribal, state, and local—have distinct responsibilities but often cooperate to address community needs.

located no farther than one mile (1.6 km) from a student's home. If a local school system chooses to place a bus stop farther away, it violates state law. In such cases, the student's parent can invoke the state law to require the school district to move the bus stop within the legal distance.

The different levels of government often work together to address the needs of communities. For example, the state and federal government provides money for public education, the state government sets standards that schools must meet, and local governments run schools. The state government makes laws that govern elections in North Carolina, but county and local officials run the elections. In the case of a natural disaster like a hurricane, all levels of government coordinate their efforts to provide relief and aid in recovery.

For example, consider what happened when Hurricane Helene struck North Carolina in 2024. This disaster brought high winds that toppled trees and power lines, and historic rainfall that triggered catastrophic inland flooding and landslides, particularly across the western Appalachian region. The response required a coordinated effort.

The federal government, led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provided financial assistance to people affected by the hurricane. It also supplied

search and rescue teams, medical supplies, and temporary housing to support people in the affected areas. The state government, led by the governor, oversaw the overall emergency response. It worked with local officials to ensure that resources were distributed. The state also mobilized members of the National Guard into active duty. These citizen soldiers helped evacuate people, led search and rescue operations, and removed debris. The state Department of Transportation worked to repair damaged roads and bridges, restoring vital transportation links. Local governments set up shelters and provided essential supplies and services like food, water, and medical care to those in need. They also worked to assess the damage in their communities and began the process of rebuilding.

Beyond government intervention, grassroots efforts by citizens, businesses, and nonprofits were crucial to the state's recovery, as communities donated funds, shared supplies, volunteered, and helped rebuild homes and businesses.



U.S. Army soldiers provided support to North Carolina communities impacted by Hurricane Helene in 2024.



Citizenship in Action

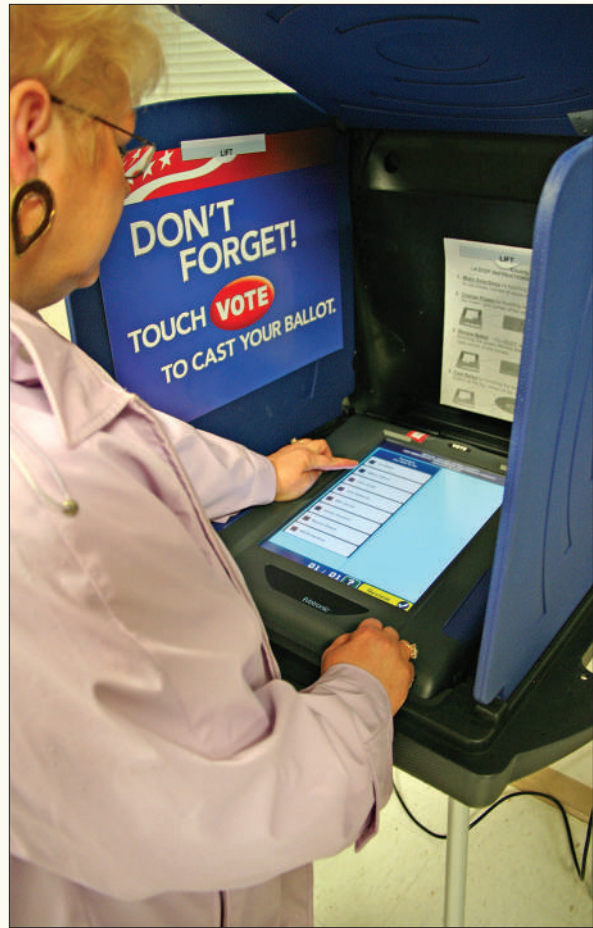
In the United States, citizens have both rights and responsibilities. Actively participating in government is essential to ensuring that the government reflects the needs and values of the people.

There are many ways citizens participate in democracy. Casting a ballot in elections by voting is one of the most important of them. Beyond voting, individuals can attend town hall or city council meetings to express their concerns directly to elected officials and provide input on proposed plans or laws.

Some people participate by joining **grassroots movements**, working with others to advocate for change on issues they are passionate about. Serving on a jury is another way to participate in democracy. Serving on a jury helps allows citizens to contribute to the administration of justice. For those seeking a more active leadership role, running for elected office offers

Vocabulary

grassroots movement, n. a reform movement beginning with and coming from ordinary people



A citizen casts her vote, participating in the democratic process that shapes the state's—and the nation's—future.

the opportunity to directly influence policies and represent the interests of their community. For example, serving on a local school board allows citizens to shape education policies, allocate resources, and advocate for students and teachers in their community. Together, these forms of civic engagement strengthen democracy by ensuring that diverse voices are heard and considered throughout the government.



Find Out the Facts

Research opportunities for civic engagement in your community. Are there any upcoming town hall or school board meetings? What grassroots organizations are active in your area?

Writers' Corner



Imagine you are writing a letter to your state representative about an issue that is important to you. How would you express your concerns and propose solutions?

Throughout North Carolina's history, various groups have gained greater access to democratic rights and freedoms. This has happened gradually and resulted from new laws, court decisions, and movements that pushed for change. For example, African American groups and individuals have worked in many ways to secure voting rights and to ensure equality in education and economic justice. Raleigh was a hub in the civil rights movement, which led to progress in securing greater equal rights for African Americans. One aim of the civil rights movement was to end legal **segregation**. Organizations like the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) have worked tirelessly to end **discrimination** and ensure equal opportunities for all.

Vocabulary

segregation, n. the act of keeping people separate, usually on the basis of race

discrimination, n. unfair treatment of a person or group because of beliefs about that group of people

Native American tribes in North Carolina, like the Eastern Band of Cherokee, work to preserve their culture. Like all groups in North Carolina, they want to have a say in what happens in their community. They often focus on protecting their sovereignty, preserving their cultural heritage, and influencing decisions that affect their communities. To do this, they sometimes work with different parts of the government. The tribe actively works to protect the environment. The Cherokee's Climate Action Plan outlines strategies to address climate change, including the deployment of an off-grid solar microgrid



In February of 1960, a group of people in Charlotte, North Carolina, protested segregation.

and electric vehicles, funded by a \$5 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee's efforts to protect its sovereignty are shown in its collaboration with the state government. For example, the tribe has worked with the North Carolina Department of Transportation on projects to improve transportation on tribal lands. Working together ensures that tribal needs are considered and that the tribe has a voice in the development of its own community.

Immigrant groups have also organized. Some have pushed businesses to provide

better working conditions. El Pueblo, a Raleigh-based organization, advocates for immigrant rights, including arguing for better working conditions for immigrant workers in the construction and agricultural industries. Similarly, the North Carolina Justice Center has focused on improving access to health care for immigrant communities. It has successfully advocated for policies that expand health insurance coverage to include undocumented children and pregnant women.

The advocacy of these groups has addressed needs within their communities



Mail-in ballots and curbside voting make it easier for people with disabilities to participate in the democratic process.

and led to policy changes that affect the entire state. Their work shows the ongoing quest for equality and justice in North Carolina, as diverse groups work toward greater participation in democracy for all residents.

As a result of such advocacy, North Carolina has adopted many reforms and strategies over the years to address discrimination. These include laws to protect voting rights, promote equal access to education and jobs, and combat hate crimes. One state law protects people with disabilities by making sure that they have access to services available to others. A national law protects the right of Native

Americans to practice their traditional religions. This law is an example of Native American groups working with Congress for further recognition.

Think Twice



In what ways have the people of North Carolina historically advocated for change?

Reforms aimed at addressing discrimination have impacted individuals, policies, and institutions in North Carolina. While progress has been made, the struggle for equality and justice continues. It's important for citizens to actively participate to hold the government to the ideals of equality and justice for all.

Chapter 3

A New State in a New Nation

Big Question


What was North Carolina's role in the formation of the United States?

A Bold Experiment

The air crackled with anticipation. The Founders gathered in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 17, 1787, with the fate of the young United States in their hands. The room buzzed with the promise of a bold change—a brand-new government.

The country's first experiment with government, the Articles of Confederation, had failed. Tasked with fixing the Articles, the Founders instead decided to replace them. It was a risky decision, one that sparked





Richard Dobbs Spaight was one of five delegates from North Carolina who took part in the convention process that resulted in the drafting of the U.S. Constitution.

debate both within the convention and across the country. But the Founders firmly believed that their new plan of government was the right way forward for the country.

The task complete, the Founders gathered for the final step of their mission: signing their work. Richard Dobbs Spaight stepped forward as George Washington towered at the center of the room. A young delegate from North Carolina, Spaight dipped his quill into ink and signed his name to the new U.S. Constitution. The United States of America took a step toward forming a more perfect union, and North Carolina played a role in its creation.

Revolution and Independence

The decades from 1760 to 1790 were a time of turmoil and change. This era saw American colonists mount a revolution that led to the formation of a new nation, the United States of America. North Carolina was a part of this broader struggle and played a crucial role as the nation adopted a new form of representative government that became a model for the world.

Many colonists were upset that they lacked direct representation in the British Parliament. With no one to represent

them, they had no say in the laws that governed them. They also resented restrictions on their freedoms put in place by the British. The British had imposed taxes to help pay for the French and Indian War (1754–1763), a costly conflict in North America that was part of a bigger war between Britain and France known as the Seven Years' War. As a result of that war, Britain secured control over much of North America but was left deeply in debt.

The turmoil began in the 1760s. Colonists felt burdened by British taxes like the Stamp Act in 1765 and the Tea Act in 1773.

Many North Carolinians joined other American colonists in protesting these taxes, claiming they were unfair. They organized demonstrations, boycotted British goods, and even forced stamp distributors to resign. Tensions were rising, and colonists were more and more upset with British rule.

This discontent fueled a growing spirit of resistance. Years before independence was declared, many North Carolinians showed their rebellious spirit through the Regulator Movement, which emerged in the late 1760s. The Regulators, a group of farmers and settlers in the western part of the colony, demanded fair taxes, honest government, and greater representation. They felt ignored and taken advantage

of by eastern elites who controlled the colonial government. Remember, the colonial government was mostly controlled by British officials, not elected representatives of the people.

When the Regulators' demands were ignored, they clashed with the colonial militia at the Battle of Alamance in 1771.

This battle, fought near present-day Burlington, North Carolina, was a significant turning point in the Regulator Movement.

The Regulators, although numbering in the thousands, were poorly equipped and lacked military experience. They faced a smaller but better-trained militia force led by Royal Governor William Tryon.

The battle lasted for about two hours and resulted in a victory for the colonial government. Several Regulators were killed, and many more were captured.

Governor Tryon executed seven Regulator leaders for treason, the crime of betraying one's country. Although the Regulators were defeated, the issues they raised—fairness, representation, and government that served the people—continued to simmer beneath the surface. This legacy of resistance was remembered a few years later when the American colonies finally declared their independence from British rule.

The Regulators' fight, though seemingly



Tensions reached a peak in 1771 as North Carolina's Royal Governor William Tryon, who had been appointed by King George III, confronted the Regulators.

unsuccessful at the time, helped pave the way for the American Revolution in North Carolina.

Over the next few years, British policies continued to provoke growing unrest in the thirteen colonies, including North Carolina. North Carolina women took a stand against the British through the Edenton Tea Party. In 1774, fifty-one women signed a resolution to boycott British goods to protest what they perceived as unfair taxes. This act of defiance, organized by Penelope Barker, went beyond symbolism. The women of the Edenton Tea Party actively boycotted British tea and other goods, encouraging others to do the same. Their resolve demonstrated women's commitment to

the Americans' cause and their willingness to challenge authority.

Although it was mocked by the British press, the Edenton Tea Party had a real impact. It inspired similar actions in other colonies and showed the growing unity and determination of the American people. The boycott, although difficult to sustain over the long term, contributed to colonial economic pressure on Great Britain. It also helped build support for the revolutionary cause.

In 1774 and 1775, British control over North Carolina rapidly fell apart. Prominent North Carolinian men created a Provincial Congress that challenged the authority of the royal governor, Josiah Martin, and asserted its right to pass taxes. Then, two years later, North Carolina took an even bolder step. In the small town of Halifax,



This teapot in Edenton, North Carolina, commemorates the Edenton Tea Party, a group of women in the state who organized a boycott of British tea.

North Carolina, a group of men gathered in a simple wooden building. It was April 12, 1776, and tensions with Great Britain had reached a boiling point. The men, delegates representing the people of North Carolina, made a daring decision: they would instruct their representatives in the Continental Congress, the governing body of the American colonies at the time, to declare independence from British rule. This bold act, known as the Halifax Resolves, was adopted by North Carolina's legislature. The Resolves marked the first official action by an American colony calling for independence from British rule. The date they were adopted—April 12, 1776—appears on the North Carolina state flag. The Halifax Resolves also helped inspire the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. It was a bold and defiant statement that proclaimed the American colonies' separation from British rule. The Revolutionary War had already been happening for over a year. The war proved to be a long and bloody conflict that pitted American colonists against the mighty British Empire, which at the time boasted the world's most powerful navy and controlled the largest empire on the globe. The odds were stacked

against the Americans, but they were determined to fight for their freedom and independence.

North Carolina played a key role in this fight. Many of its citizens took up arms, formed militias, and joined the Continental Army. They participated in battles within the state and beyond its borders. One such battle was the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, fought in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1781. Although a tactical victory for the British, it proved to be a costly one, weakening their forces and contributing to their eventual defeat. North Carolina fighters also played a key role in the Americans' victory in the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina in 1780. This victory weakened British efforts to expand control in the southern colonies and boosted the morale of the American forces. The war brought hardship and sacrifice to North Carolina, but it also forged a strong sense of unity and purpose among its people.

The fight for independence involved people from all walks of life. Farmers, merchants, and artisans joined the Continental Army. Enslaved workers hoped to obtain freedom by joining the fight, with some siding with the British and others helping the Americans.

Women contributed by providing supplies, nursing the wounded, and spying on the enemy.

The Revolution affected the diverse groups who called North Carolina home in different ways. Patriots, who supported independence, risked their lives and fortunes in their fight for freedom. Loyalists, who remained faithful to Britain, were often persecuted by the Patriots, and many felt compelled to leave North Carolina. Neutral parties tried to navigate the conflict without taking

sides. Indigenous communities, like the Cherokee, were divided in their loyalties. Some allied with the British, hoping to protect their lands from the spread of colonial settlement. This led to conflicts with Patriot forces. Ultimately, the war disrupted Native American life and accelerated the loss of their lands.

Think Twice

How did the experiences of different groups of people in the Revolutionary War differ?

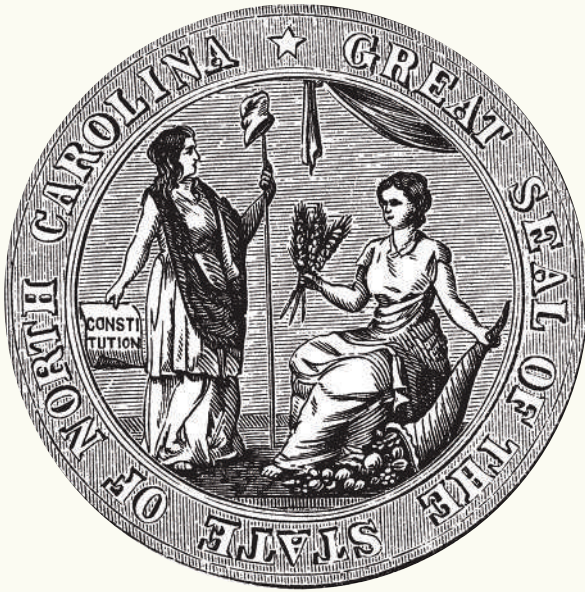


Loyalist Flora MacDonald tried to raise support for the British among settlers who had come to North Carolina from her native Scotland. Like many Loyalists, she fled to Britain during the Revolution.

North Carolina's First Constitution

During the Revolution, North Carolina set about creating its own government. In December 1776, the state adopted its first constitution. This document laid the foundation for North Carolina's political system.

The 1776 constitution established a framework for the state's government. It created a system with three branches—the legislative, executive, and judicial—much like what the United States would later adopt. The legislative branch, known as the General Assembly, had the power to make laws. The executive branch, headed by the



The Great Seal of North Carolina, authorized by the state's first constitution in 1776, included the figure of liberty holding a written constitution, symbolizing the state's commitment to freedom and limited government.

governor, was responsible for enforcing those laws. The governor had a term of only one year, however. The writers of this constitution feared placing too much power in the hands of one person, a concern rooted in their experience with the British monarchy and royal governors. They had seen firsthand how unchecked executive power could lead to tyranny, and they sought to prevent such abuses in their new government. The judicial branch, comprised of state courts, was responsible for interpreting state laws and ensuring justice.

This first state constitution reflected the democratic ideals that fueled the

American Revolution. It also contained features that limited the reach of those ideals, reflecting the social values and thinking of the time. Voting rights were restricted to men only, but unlike in some other states, this included free African American men. Any man who paid taxes could vote for members of the state House of Representatives. To vote for members of the state Senate, men had to own a certain amount of property. Women, enslaved people, and Native Americans were excluded from political participation. This limited view of citizenship would be a source of struggle throughout North Carolina's and the nation's history. Despite its limitations, the 1776 constitution was an important step in North Carolina's journey as an independent state.

Think Twice



To what extent did North Carolina's 1776 constitution reflect democratic ideals?

Participation in North Carolina's First Government

While North Carolina's first constitution reflected democratic ideals, not everyone enjoyed equal rights and freedoms.

The institution of slavery played a significant role in shaping North Carolina's government and society. Under the law, enslaved people had no political rights and were treated as property. This stark inequality created a society where power and privilege were concentrated in the hands of only a few. Meanwhile, a large segment of the population was denied basic human rights. In 1790, nearly one-quarter of the state's people were enslaved.

Despite these conditions, enslaved workers showed **resilience** and resistance. They found ways to maintain their cultural traditions and build communities. Many resisted their oppression. Some engaged in subtle acts of defiance, such as breaking tools or pretending to be ill so they could not work. Others who could took bolder actions, such as running away to seek freedom in the North. Individuals like Harriet Jacobs, who escaped slavery and later wrote an autobiography about her experiences, demonstrated the courage and determination of those who resisted.

Vocabulary

resilience, n. the ability to recover from hardship or difficult circumstances

Slavery shaped North Carolina's social, economic, cultural, and political development for generations.

Although denied formal political rights, women in early North Carolina exerted influence in their families and communities. They managed households and educated children. Most played vital economic roles, such as farming or running businesses. Without their contributions, families would have had more difficulty surviving.

Think Twice

How did the exclusion of certain groups from political participation affect North Carolina's development?



North Carolina's Revolutionary Economy

The Revolutionary War caused major changes in North Carolina's economy. Trade with Britain had been an economic lifeline for the colony, despite being strictly controlled by British laws like the Navigation Acts. These laws mandated that the colonies trade primarily with Britain, limiting colonists' economic freedom. This meant that manufactured

goods and luxuries were easily imported from Britain. It also meant that the colonies were dependent on Britain for their economic well-being.

That lifeline was cut off by the war. Goods that had once been easily imported from Britain became scarce. North Carolinians had to find new ways to get these goods either by making them at home, smuggling them, or trading for them.

The war also placed demands on the colony's resources. Labor and materials were **diverted** from traditional economic activities like farming and manufacturing to support the war effort. Farmers were called upon to provide food and supplies for the troops. Many farmers also left their fields to fight, leading to a decline in agricultural production. Other industries, like shipbuilding and iron production, were also affected as resources were redirected toward military needs. This shift in economic priorities, along with the

Vocabulary

divert, v. to shift to another purpose



Think Twice

How might the disruption of trade with Great Britain have affected the daily lives of people in North Carolina?

disruption of trade, caused hardships for many North Carolinians.

However, the war also boosted certain parts of North Carolina's economy.

The need to equip and supply soldiers created new opportunities for local businesses. North Carolina's blacksmiths, for example, fashioned weapons and tools for soldiers. **Textile** mills increased production to provide clothing and blankets. Farmers' crops were used to sustain the troops. Townspeople provided food and lodging for soldiers passing through.

The Revolutionary War, while a time of hardship, spurred economic change in North Carolina. New trade routes were established with other states and nations. Local industries emerged to produce goods no longer available through trade with Britain. The war also fostered a spirit of self-reliance and **innovation**. For instance, women organized spinning bees (a gathering of women to spin yarn together) and weaving workshops to produce cloth

Vocabulary

textile, n. cloth or fabric

innovation, n. a new idea, device, or method of doing something



THE VILLAGE SMITHY.

Blacksmiths played an important role in the Revolutionary War, supplying weapons, tools, and equipment.

locally. Farmers experimented with new crops and growing techniques to increase yields.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights

The Revolutionary War formally ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Before signing the treaty, the British had suffered a series of defeats that ultimately forced them to surrender and recognize the independence of the United States. The treaty simply made it official.

The new nation then faced the challenge of creating a unified government. The first attempt at a national government,

the Articles of Confederation, proved too weak to govern effectively. Under the Articles, state identity and authority often took priority over national unity. Each state operated almost like an independent country, with its own currency, laws, and economic policies. Under the Articles, the national government lacked the power to tax, control commerce between states, or enforce laws. This made it difficult to address national issues and left the states prone to disagreement.

Recognizing the need for a more effective central government, delegates from the states gathered at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Originally, their goal was simply to revise the Articles of Confederation, but they soon agreed that a more drastic solution was needed. The delegates decided to replace the Articles and draft a new framework for the nation's government. The document they wrote—the U.S. Constitution—was then sent to the states to **ratify**.

Vocabulary

ratify, v. to approve

Many North Carolinians were wary of strong central power. As a result, the state initially refused to ratify the U.S. Constitution. At the Hillsborough Convention in 1788, delegates expressed

concerns that the document lacked protections for individual liberties. They demanded that a bill of rights be added to the Constitution to safeguard fundamental freedoms like freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

This demand for a bill of rights reflected a larger national debate. Federalists supported ratification, while Anti-Federalists opposed it unless stronger protections for individual liberties were added. Anti-Federalists across the country argued that a strong central government could become **tyrannical** without strict

limits on its power. The Federalists, initially opposed to a bill of rights, eventually agreed to add one to ensure that the Constitution would be ratified.

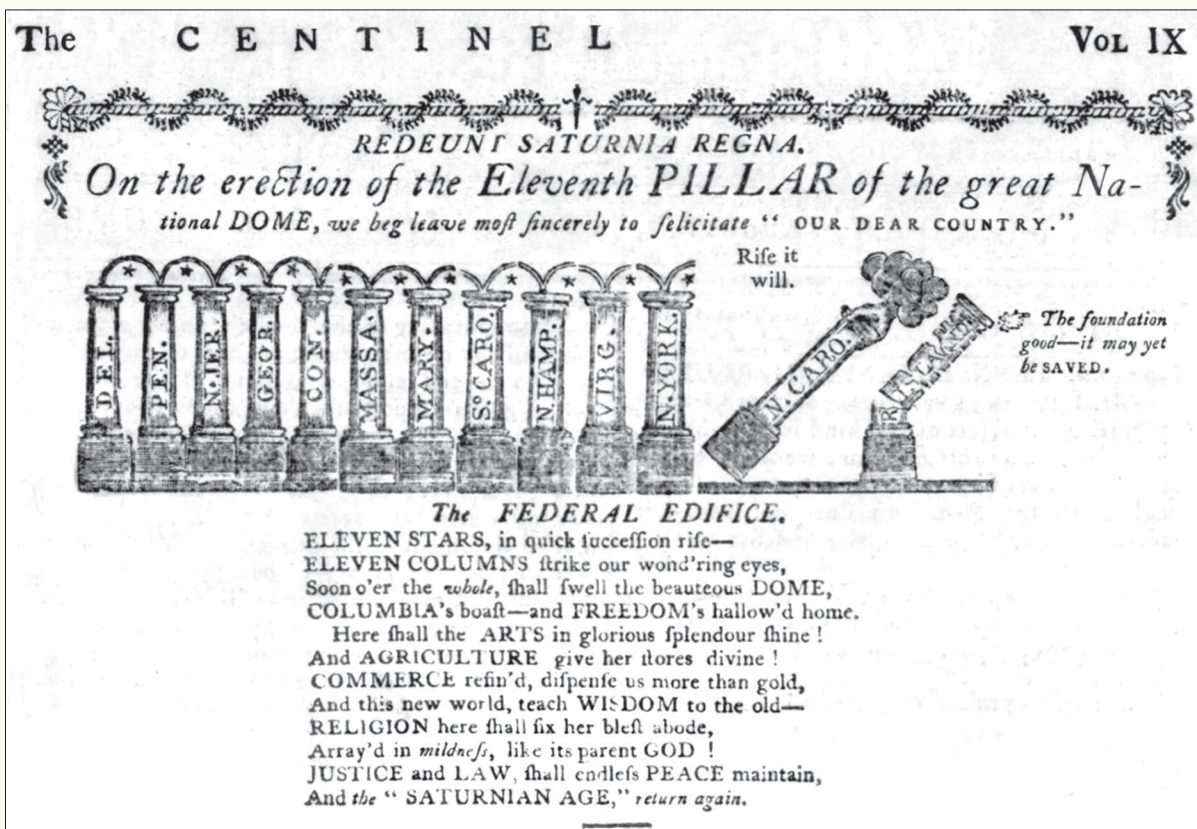
Vocabulary

tyrannical, adj. abusing power in a harsh and brutal way



Think Twice

Why was North Carolina hesitant to ratify the Constitution without a bill of rights?



This cartoon depicts the challenges of ratifying the Constitution. As of 1788, when the cartoon was published, North Carolina had yet to approve the document.

Writers' Corner



Imagine you are a delegate at the Hillsborough Convention in 1788. Write a short speech expressing your concerns about the Constitution and arguing for the inclusion of a bill of rights.

With the promise of a bill of rights, North Carolina ratified the Constitution in 1789 at the Fayetteville Convention. It became the twelfth state to do so. Two years later, the ten amendments that make up the Bill of Rights were ratified and added to the Constitution.

While the Constitution and the Bill of Rights created a new framework for government and individual rights, they also had limitations. Those limits were based on the inequalities present in American society at the time. Women, despite their contributions to the Revolution, were excluded from the formal political process. They could not vote or hold office and were not seen as full citizens. Some women pushed for better treatment. Abigail Adams, the wife of future president John Adams, famously urged her husband to “remember the ladies” when forming the new government. Her plea for fairer treatment went unheard.

The Constitution also failed to address the injustice of slavery. In fact, it included

the Three-Fifths Compromise, which counted each enslaved person as three-fifths of a person when tallying a state’s population to determine congressional representation. This compromise increased the political power and influence of the Southern states and helped win their support for the Constitution. It also protected the political power of slaveholding states and left slavery in place. The Constitution also included a clause—Article I, Section 9, Clause 1—that barred Congress from banning the transatlantic slave trade until 1808. This meant that while Congress could choose to end the importation of enslaved people after 1808, it could take no legislative action before then. Meanwhile, the domestic slave trade within the United States was left entirely untouched and continued to grow in scale.

The Constitution also did not recognize Native Americans as U.S. citizens. Native peoples living within or near the new nation’s borders continued to face displacement and conflict. The Constitution gave the federal government authority over treaties with Native American tribes, but it provided little protection for their rights or their lands. As settlers pushed westward, Native Americans were often forced to give up their lands and relocate to new areas.

Chapter 4

North Carolina in a Growing Nation

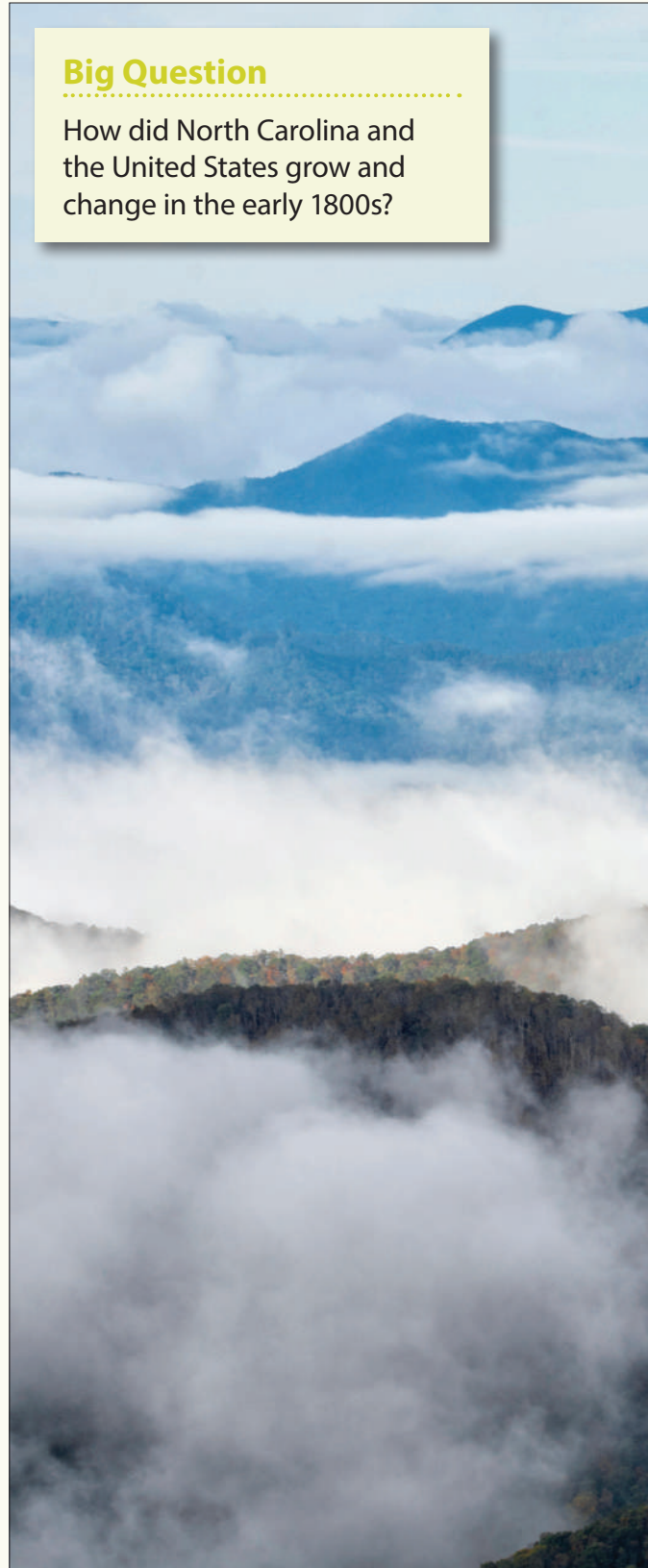


Mountain Refuge

*Amid the bustle of newly developed industry in North Carolina, a story of struggle and resistance was unfolding in the state's western mountains. U.S. soldiers, armed with rifles, searched the rugged terrain for Cherokee families who refused to be driven west. Yet defiance took root in secret: farmers like John Welch risked their safety to provide food and shelter to those Native Americans who refused to abandon their homelands. Cherokee resistance, led by Tsali (/sah*lee/), utilized the mountains as a refuge. The mountains' dense forests and hidden trails concealed families and allowed for undetected movement. Cherokee resistance reflected the broader conflict among Indigenous nations, settlers, and the U.S. government over land, sovereignty, and removal policies. Other changes that would define life in North Carolina in the early 1800s were on the horizon as well.*

Big Question

How did North Carolina and the United States grow and change in the early 1800s?





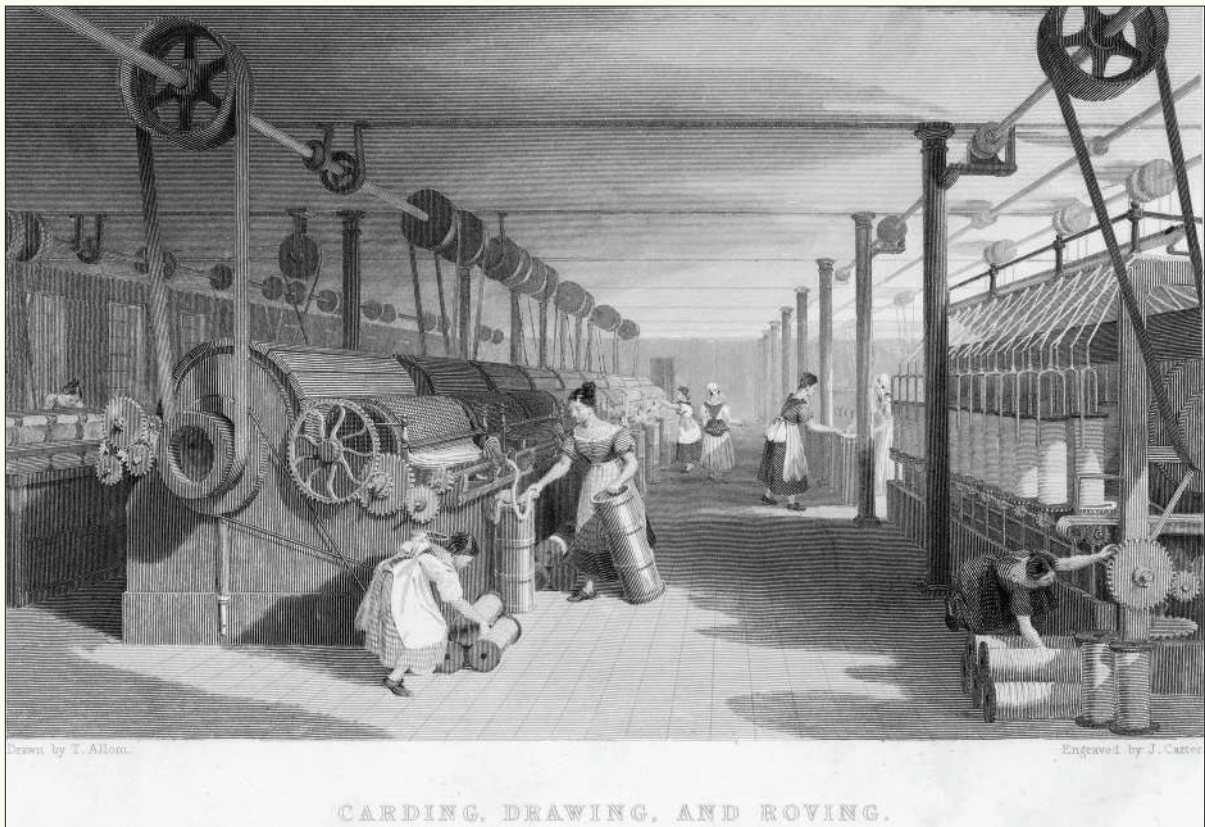
The Cherokee could hide in the dense, wooded terrain of the western North Carolina mountains. One army officer noted that after three weeks of searching, his men had not seen, let alone captured, a single Cherokee.



The First Industrial Revolution in North Carolina

The First Industrial Revolution transformed North Carolina's transportation, economy, and society. Innovations like textile mills and railroads dramatically changed how goods were produced and moved to market. The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, completed in 1840 and at the time the longest railroad in the world, connected rural areas to urban markets and, through Wilmington's coastal port, to destinations abroad. This reduced transportation costs and helped integrate the state into national and global trade networks.

Textile mills sprang up across the Piedmont region, taking advantage of river-powered machinery and shifting the state's economy toward factory-based manufacturing. The cotton gin, invented in the 1790s by Eli Whitney, made it easier to remove seeds from cotton bolls and led to increased cotton production. However, North Carolina's climate and soil were less ideal for cotton than in Deep South states, so it never dominated the state's economy to the same degree.



Women and children played an important role in textile mills, like this one in Cotton Mill, North Carolina. They operated machinery that spun cotton for them and sewed garments, often under challenging conditions.

Instead, North Carolina's most important export prior to the Civil War was naval stores—products like tar, pitch, and turpentine derived from the state's abundant pine forests. These materials were essential for maintaining wooden ships and earned North Carolinians the enduring nickname "Tar Heels."

Economic changes had social impacts on North Carolina. Although located in the agrarian South, the state maintained close ties with the industrial North. Women and children became a large part of the workforce in textile factories. They

often endured harsh conditions. Workers endured long hours, typically ten-hour shifts or longer, six days a week. Wages were low with women earning just cents per hour and children even less. The air in the factories was thick with cotton dust, leading to breathing problems. These conditions sparked labor unrest and calls for reform, but meaningful change was slow to come.

The rise of textile mills had a devastating consequence: increased demand for cotton, which contributed to the expansion of slavery. While the cotton gin

made cotton production more efficient, it also increased demand for enslaved labor in the fields. This strengthened the central role that slavery played in the Southern economy. The growing industrialization in the North, coupled with the South's increasing reliance on enslaved labor, created a widening economic and social divide between the two regions.



Think Twice

How did the First Industrial Revolution impact the lives of enslaved people in North Carolina?

Writers' Corner



Imagine you are a young woman working in a textile mill in North Carolina during the First Industrial Revolution. Write a letter to your family describing your experiences, the challenges you face, and your hopes for the future.

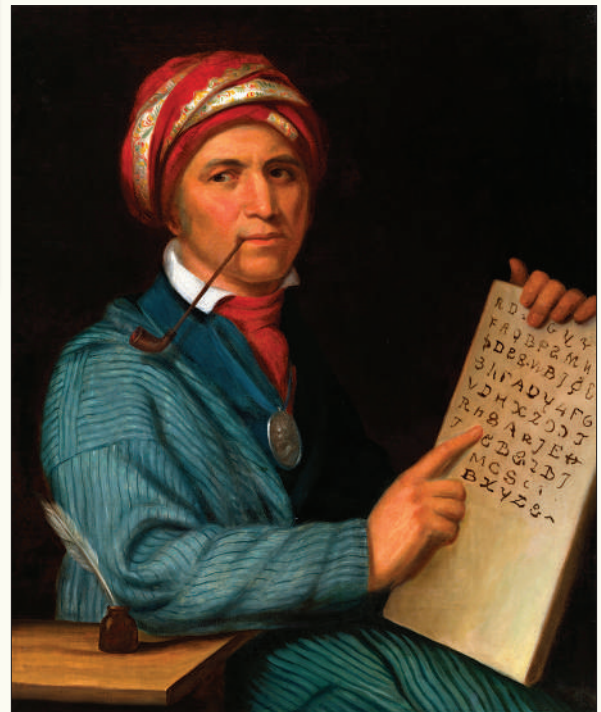


Indian Removal and the Trail of Tears

Native Americans, particularly the Cherokee in North Carolina, actively fought for their rights, lands, and preservation of their cultures in the face of

increasing pressure from settlers and the government.

One example is the work of Sequoyah, a Cherokee leader who invented the Cherokee syllabary. A syllabary is like an alphabet, but its symbols represent syllables instead of individual letters. This writing system for the Cherokee language allowed the Cherokee to document their history, laws, and culture. It greatly aided the effort to preserve the Cherokee heritage. The syllabary made it possible to publish newspapers and books in the Cherokee language. This promoted



This 1830 oil painting of Sequoyah, who was born in North Carolina, shows him holding the Cherokee syllabary he invented.

literacy and strengthened cultural identity. Sequoyah invented his syllabary in an attempt to preserve Cherokee independence.

Vocabulary

literacy, n. the ability to read and write



Find Out the Facts

Research the life and work of Sequoyah. How did his invention of the Cherokee syllabary impact the Cherokee people and their culture?

In 1830, the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Act, which was signed into law by President Andrew Jackson. The law authorized the president to negotiate treaties with Native American tribes, exchanging their lands in the eastern United States for unsettled land west of the Mississippi River. Although the act was framed as allowing negotiated removal, it did not explicitly authorize forced removal. Yet in practice, removal frequently involved threats, coercion, and military force.

Jackson had actively campaigned on the issue, reflecting widespread white American support for Native removal. Several motives drove this policy. Settlers sought more land, and many viewed Native peoples and their refusal to fully

assimilate as obstacles to American expansion. The discovery of gold on Cherokee land in Georgia in 1828 further intensified these pressures. Though framed as voluntary relocation, the implementation of the Indian Removal Act had devastating consequences.

Vocabulary

assimilate, v. to adopt the ways of another culture

Beginning in the 1830s, Cherokee were forced to march from their homelands in the southeast to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) along a series of routes that became known as the Trail of Tears. The journey spanned over 1,000 miles (1,609 km). Escorted by armed soldiers, most of the Cherokee had little more than the clothes on their backs. They faced scorching summer heat and bitter winter cold with inadequate food, shelter, and medical care. Thousands perished from disease, exhaustion, and starvation. To make matters worse, the land in Indian Territory was drastically different from their ancestral lands. The Indian Territory had a drier climate with less fertile soil and fewer reliable water sources. The Trail of Tears stands as a stark reminder of the brutality and

injustice inflicted upon Native Americans by the U.S. government.

The Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole were forcibly removed as well.

They endured similar conditions. These removals emptied large areas of land in the Southeast, including in North Carolina. They fueled expansion as settlers sought

The Trail of Tears



The Trail of Tears, which consisted of more than one route, crossed several states and resulted in the displacement of approximately 17,000 Cherokee to Indian Territory (now known as Oklahoma).

new opportunities and fertile soil for farming in lands that had belonged to Native Americans.

Determined to protect their rights, the Cherokee resisted removal. They employed legal strategies, filing petitions and pursuing court cases. In *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), the U.S. Supreme Court recognized tribal sovereignty and Cherokee control of their land. This victory, however, did not prevent removal. A small faction of Cherokee leaders, including John Ridge and Elias Boudinot, signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, giving up Cherokee land in exchange for land in the West. This treaty, however, was not approved by the Cherokee National Council and did not represent the will of the majority of the Cherokee people. The federal government did not enforce the Supreme Court's decision. Despite the protests of Chief John Ross and many Cherokee, removal proceeded. This episode illustrates limits on the effectiveness of checks and balances in practice.

In North Carolina, Cherokee leaders like Yonaguska resisted the advance of settlers onto their lands. Although ultimately forced to relocate, their resistance demonstrated the Cherokee people's determination to defend their

sovereignty and way of life. A small group known as the Eastern Band of Cherokee even remained in western North Carolina. While the majority of the Cherokee were forced west, a small group, led by a man named Tsali, refused to leave. They sought refuge in the remote, mountainous areas of North Carolina. Tsali and his followers faced incredible hardships, living off the land and constantly evading capture. Eventually, Tsali surrendered to authorities in exchange for the safety of his people and the promise that they could remain in their homeland. Tsali's surrender and execution contributed to some Cherokee being allowed to remain in North Carolina. This group eventually purchased land in what is now known as the Qualla Boundary, a portion of their original territory. In the twentieth century,



The Eastern Band of Cherokee preserve and share their culture at the Oconaluftee Indian Village in the Qualla Boundary.

they gained federal recognition as the Eastern Band of Cherokee.

The forced relocation of Native Americans also had negative effects on African Americans. White settlers moving onto Native lands primarily planted cotton. Increased cotton production in these areas created a high demand for enslaved labor. This led to the forced migration of thousands of enslaved people from the Upper South (which includes North Carolina) to the Deep South. Families were routinely separated, another cruel element of slavery that dated back to the origins of slavery in North America.

Responses to the Indian Removal Act reflected divisions within American society over issues of race, land ownership, and rights of Native Americans. Some, like President Jackson, argued that removal was necessary for both Native Americans and settlers. These people believed that Native Americans would be better off in western lands, where they could live and develop their own societies. Others saw removal as a way to open up valuable land for settlement and economic development.

Those who supported removal often saw it as a necessary step in the United States' westward expansion.

However, many others opposed removal. They argued that the policy violated treaties with Native American tribes and was morally wrong. U.S. Senator Henry Clay stated that Native Americans could be assimilated into American society. Others, like abolitionists, saw removal as a form of slavery. They said that it betrayed the nation's principles of liberty and equality. The perspectives and wishes of Native Americans were often not reflected in these debates.

Think Twice



How did the Trail of Tears impact the Cherokee people and their culture?



Sectional Tensions and the Debate Over Slavery

Slavery played a central role in the development of **sectionalism**, fueling tensions in the country. In the South, the

Vocabulary

sectionalism, n. strong loyalty to one's region and its interests, often to the exclusion of the interests of other regions

plantation economy relied heavily on unpaid enslaved labor to profitably grow cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar, and other crops. Slavery was deeply connected to the region's prosperity and sense of identity. The Southern states, including North Carolina, developed a strong pro-slavery point of view. Southerners saw slavery as necessary for their way of life and economic well-being.

In contrast, the North was shifting to greater reliance on industry and **urbanization**. Although the international slave trade had been abolished in 1808, the domestic slave trade was thriving in the South. Though illegal in the North, the existence of slavery still benefitted the North because cotton produced by enslaved labor was needed for its textile mills. Many, but not all, in the North viewed slavery as morally wrong and a threat to the principles stated in the Declaration of Independence. This growing opposition to slavery in the North contributed to the growing sectional divide.

Vocabulary

plantation, n. a large farm where cash crops are grown on behalf of the person who owns the land

urbanization, n. the formation and growth of cities

The expansion of the United States westward, fueled by the concept of Manifest Destiny, added to these sectional tensions. Manifest Destiny was the belief that the United States had a God-given right to expand its territory across the North American continent. The acquisition of new lands from the Northwest Ordinance of 1785 and the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 led to the creation of new territories and reignited debates over the expansion of slavery, a controversial topic since the signing of the Constitution. People debated whether the new lands in the west would be slave or free states. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 temporarily resolved the issue. It admitted Missouri to the Union as a slave state and Maine as a free state. It also prohibited slavery in the remaining territories north of 36°30' latitude. The compromise did not fully address the underlying tensions, however.

Later, the Mexican-American War (1846–1848) resulted in the acquisition of even more territory, including California. This further inflamed sectional tensions, as the question of whether slavery would be allowed in these new lands became increasingly combative.

In 1831, an enslaved man named Nat Turner led a rebellion in Virginia, just 20 miles (32 km) from North Carolina.



This 1872 painting by John Gast, titled "American Progress," reflects how many Americans felt about Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny.

It resulted in the deaths of more than fifty white people. In the South, the rebellion increased fears of slave revolts. Turner's rebellion showed that enslaved people were willing to die rather than be enslaved, disproving notions held by many supporters of slavery. It led to even stricter **slave codes** and increased restrictions on enslaved people. For example, in Virginia, the legislature made it illegal for enslaved people to learn to read or to assemble in groups. In the North, the rebellion

reinforced the abolitionist belief that slavery was a moral evil and threatened the stability of the nation.

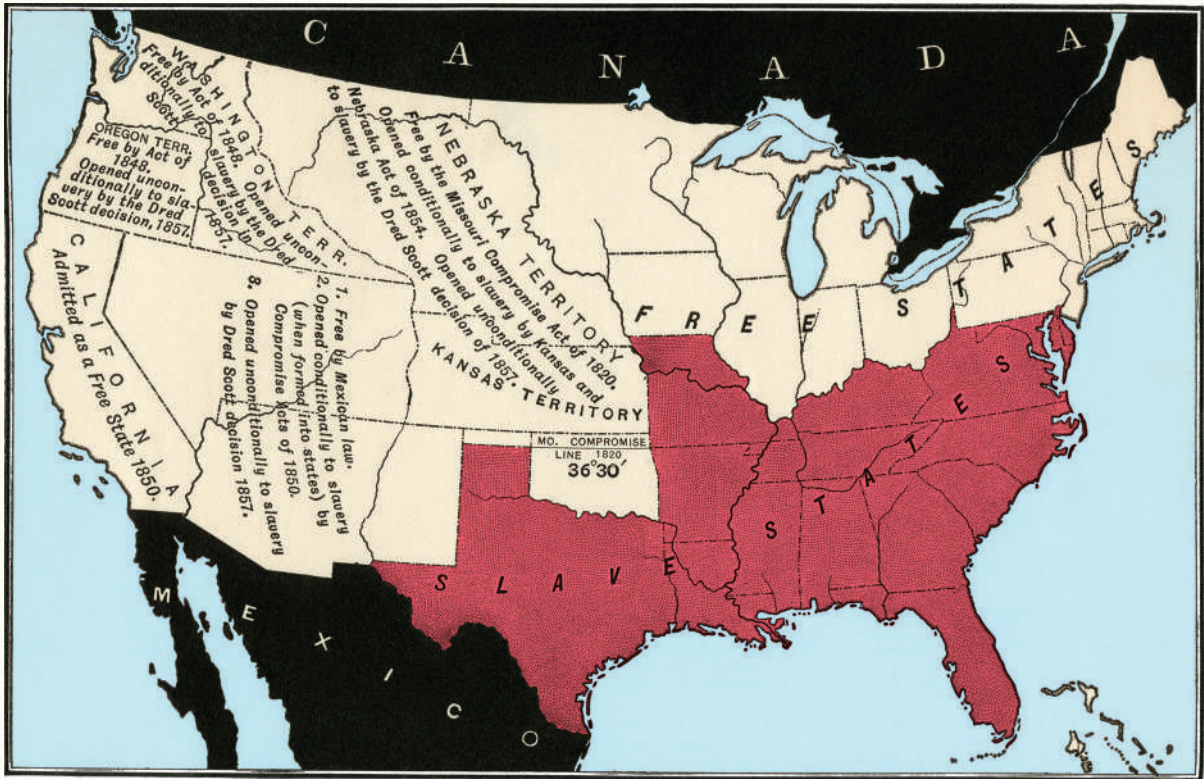
Vocabulary

slave code, n. a set of laws that limited the rights of enslaved persons

Think Twice

Why do you think the Nat Turner Rebellion had such a profound impact on the debate over slavery in both the North and the South?





The Missouri Compromise aimed to ban slavery from the Kansas and Nebraska territories. The map shows free states and slave states (in red), highlighting the growing division in the nation.

While North Carolinians generally supported slavery, as the economy largely relied on it, the state did face growing divisions based on geography. In the western, mountainous part of the state, the economy was based on small farms rather than large plantations. Farmers there relied less on enslaved labor. This led to differing perspectives on slavery, foreshadowing the larger conflict brewing between the North and the South.

The Abolitionist Movement

African Americans and other abolitionists fought for an end to slavery. This struggle took many forms in North Carolina, from quiet resistance to organized efforts to help enslaved people escape.

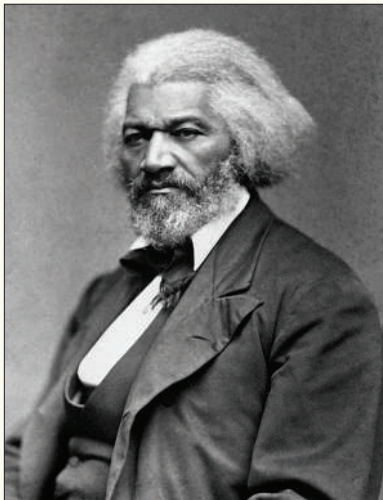
Frederick Douglass, a former enslaved person who escaped to freedom, was among the most prominent abolitionists.

He became a powerful speaker and writer. Douglass had been enslaved in Maryland, where he was born. Douglass's autobiography gave a firsthand account of the horrors of slavery and inspired many to join the abolitionist cause. His speeches helped spread the message of abolition. He also published an antislavery newspaper, *The North Star*, which was named after the star that guided those escaping slavery to freedom.

Harriet Tubman, who helped enslaved people escape to freedom through the Underground Railroad, was another

significant abolitionist. The Underground Railroad was not an actual railroad, but a secret network of safe houses, escape routes, and allies—both Black and white—who helped enslaved people flee bondage and reach free states or Canada. It operated mostly at night and relied on coded language and signals to protect those involved.

Several Underground Railroad routes passed through North Carolina, particularly in the eastern part of the state where waterways and swamps provided cover for those fleeing. One



Frederick Douglass led a campaign against slavery, influencing public opinion through powerful speeches and writings. He visited the White House many times to meet with President Lincoln, becoming the first African American to be invited to the White House as a nationally distinguished guest.



Sojourner Truth, from New York, was an anti-slavery preacher, abolitionist, and women's rights advocate. Her famous 1851 speech, "Ain't I a Woman," was widely circulated.



Harriet Tubman, from Maryland, was a formerly enslaved activist and abolitionist. She bravely helped more than seventy enslaved people reach freedom using the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War, she was an armed scout and spy for the Union Army.



The Dismal Swamp Canal, crossing North Carolina and Virginia, provided a secret route to freedom for enslaved people escaping along the Underground Railroad.

notable route followed the Great Dismal Swamp, which spanned the border between North Carolina and Virginia. Enslaved people used these routes to avoid slave catchers, and some even found refuge for months or years in the dense swamp before continuing their journey to freedom.



Find Out the Facts

Conduct research to learn more about the role of the Great Dismal Swamp in the Underground Railroad.

Sojourner Truth was another powerful speaker and advocate for women's rights and racial equality. A formerly enslaved woman, she traveled extensively, delivering speeches that challenged ideas of the time about race and gender. Truth worked for equal rights for women and African Americans, emphasizing how these struggles were connected. She spoke out against both slavery and the limitations placed on women in society, arguing that true freedom required both racial and gender equality.

The Grimké sisters, Sarah and Angelina, from South Carolina, were influential abolitionists. Their writings and speeches reached audiences in North Carolina. They argued passionately against slavery, challenging the moral conscience of slaveholders and inspiring others to join the cause. Sarah Grimké also fought for women's **suffrage**.

The abolitionist movement faced intense opposition in North Carolina, where slavery had a strong hold. Despite the risks, some North Carolinians, including free African Americans, abolitionists, and Quakers, actively participated in the Underground Railroad. They hid fugitive slaves and helped them escape to freedom. Others, like Levi Coffin, a Quaker from Guilford County, became known as conductors on this escape route, guiding those who fled slavery to safety.

Brave individuals risked their lives and livelihoods to help others find freedom, and though the path to equality was long, the efforts of abolitionists in North Carolina and across the country planted the seeds for change.



The Push for Women's Rights

The early nineteenth century saw reform movements aimed at addressing other

social problems as well. The abolition movement was the “gateway” to activism for many white women in the nineteenth century. In fact, some of the first women's suffrage leaders met at an anti-slavery convention.

Reformers fought for causes such as abolition, temperance, and women's rights. This wave of activism stemmed in part from the Second Great Awakening, a period of religious revivalism that emphasized social responsibility and moral action. The Second Great Awakening led to the growth of new religious societies and changing views on the consumption of alcohol, which was regarded by reformers as a sin and a source of social problems. Women, African Americans, and Indigenous groups worked in these movements. Many advocated for their rights and for a more just society. Some of these reformers were active in North Carolina, challenging the **status quo** and pushing for change.

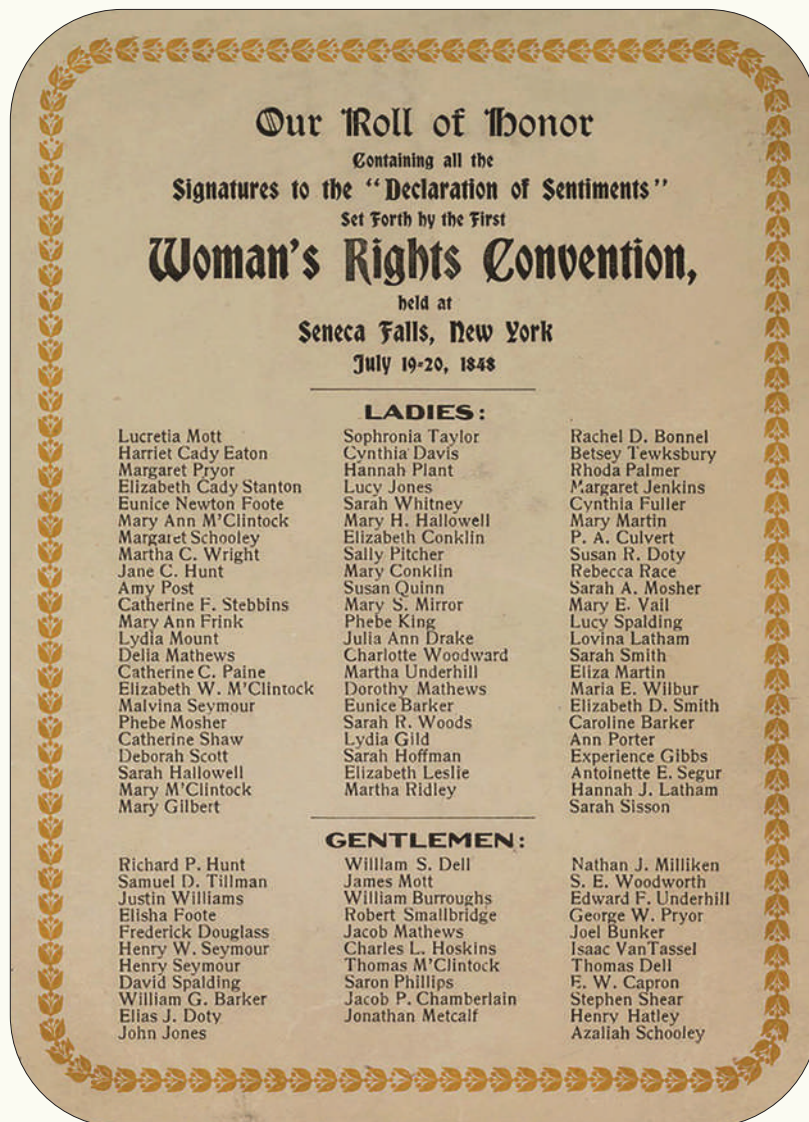
Vocabulary

suffrage, n. the right to vote

status quo, n. a Latin phrase meaning the existing state of affairs, or the way things currently are

Since the Constitution was written, women had been denied the right to vote. This omission fueled their fight for suffrage and equality. In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the Seneca Falls Convention. This gathering in the town of Seneca Falls, New York, was the first meeting

dedicated to women's rights in the United States and produced the "Declaration of Sentiments." The document, modeled on the Declaration of Independence, detailed unfair treatment of women and presented demands for equality. News of the convention and its declaration reached North Carolina women through

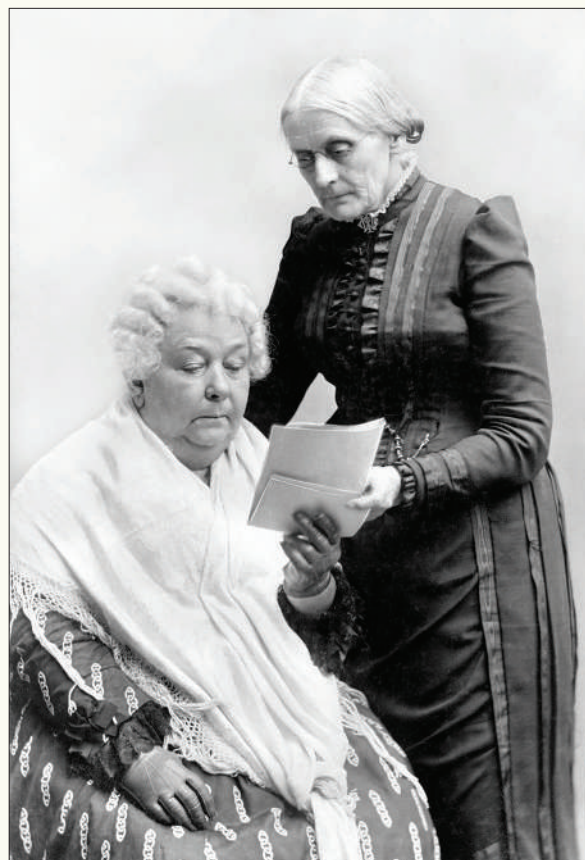


A list of signatures from the Declaration of Sentiments at the first Woman's Rights Convention in the United States, held at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848.

newspapers and traveling speakers. Some women, such as Frances Wright, a Scottish-born reformer who later settled in the United States, and Lydia Maria Child, a writer and activist from Massachusetts, were inspired to form local groups and work for similar rights, including education and property ownership.

Susan B. Anthony, who was born in Massachusetts and spent much of her life in New York, was another tireless advocate for women's suffrage. Anthony gave speeches and organized petition drives to raise awareness about women's rights. She also lobbied for legislative change at both the state and national levels. She advocated for laws granting women the right to own property, control their earnings, and participate in the political process through voting.

Those opposed to women's suffrage claimed that women did not have the mental capacity or judgement for political participation. They said that women were too emotional, easily swayed, or simply not intelligent enough to make informed decisions about complex political issues. These opponents believed that women's proper place was at home, limited to housework and caring for children.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton (seated) and Susan B. Anthony led the women's suffrage movement, advocating for women's right to vote and greater equality.

The women's rights movement faced obstacles in North Carolina, but women made some progress. Women began to gain access to education at institutions like Salem Academy and found opportunities in the growing textile industry. This increased their economic independence.

Think Twice



Why did the women's suffrage movement face such strong opposition in the early nineteenth century?

Chapter 5

North Carolina and a Nation in Conflict

Big Question

What was North Carolina's involvement in the Civil War and Reconstruction?



Emancipation Day

January 1, 1865, in New Bern, North Carolina, was a day of celebration. A band marched down the streets of the city, escorted by the U.S. Army. The coastal city, under Union control since early in the war due to its strategic location, witnessed a gathering of newly emancipated African Americans and Union troops. The town had come together to commemorate the second anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, a document that had declared enslaved people in the Confederate states to be free.



Emancipation Day celebrations, like this one in South Carolina, became a regular tradition across North Carolina starting in Union-controlled areas in 1865.



ROKINA (COLORED) VOLUNTEERS ADDRESSING THE REGIMENT, AFTER HAVING
ID, JANUARY 1.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.—SEE PAGE 275.

At first, the U.S. Army helped organize Emancipation Day festivities each year. But soon, freed African Americans took charge, transforming it into a powerful symbol of hope and resilience. For them, the day was an opportunity to imagine new lives as free citizens, though the road ahead promised to be challenging. New Bern held a special significance as North Carolina's largest city under continuous Union occupation during the war. The presence of the U.S. Army provided a degree of security and support, allowing the African American community to organize and celebrate their newfound freedom openly. On that day in January of 1865, the spirit was hopeful. Yet, for all its joy, the first Emancipation Day marked the beginning of a long and difficult journey toward equality.



Civil War on the Horizon

The sectional tensions that had been simmering for decades in the United States finally reached a boiling point in the 1850s. The central issue was slavery, which had been a source of tension in the country since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Many in the

South defended it, while opposition grew in the North.

The U.S. Congress tried to balance the interests of pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups through the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850. These compromises were largely focused on the question of slavery in western states and territories. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, part of the Compromise of 1850, required

Northerners to assist in the capture and return of enslaved persons who escaped from states where slavery was allowed. Many in the North—not just abolitionists—opposed the law. They believed this law was immoral and a violation of states' rights. In contrast, Southerners believed that enslaved people were property and should be returned.

In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of Dred Scott. Scott was an enslaved person who argued that because he had been taken by his owner to free territories (specifically, areas that were free under the Missouri Compromise), he should be considered a free man. The Supreme Court, however, ruled that the Missouri Compromise itself was unconstitutional. It declared that Congress didn't have the power to prohibit slavery in the territories. Even more significantly, the Court ruled that Scott and all other people of African descent, whether enslaved or free, were not and could never be citizens of the United States. This meant they had no right to sue in federal court. While many in the South supported the decision, many Northerners remained determined to fight the expansion of slavery. Some even used violence to do so.



Anthony Burns was an enslaved person who escaped to Boston in 1854 by being shipped north in a crate. Under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Burns was arrested and returned to slavery in Virginia, sparking outrage in the North. More than 1,500 troops were needed to escort him safely through the enraged crowd in Boston to the ship that took him back to Virginia.

In 1859, the abolitionist John Brown led a raid on the federal **arsenal** in Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He was attempting to seize the weapons, arm enslaved people and spark a large-scale revolt. Although Brown was captured, tried, and hanged, his raid made the South afraid of future uprisings. North Carolina increased its control over enslaved people to prevent similar incidents. Fear of more abolitionist raids made North Carolinians start to consider separating from the United States of America.

Vocabulary

arsenal, n. a place where weapons and other military equipment are stored

Although North Carolina had seen growth in manufacturing and industry by the 1850s, its economy still relied heavily on agriculture, particularly in the eastern and Piedmont regions. Tobacco and cotton were the primary cash crops, with production increasing in the 1850s. However, the state's agricultural landscape differed from neighboring states like South Carolina and Virginia. Unlike its neighbors, North Carolina did not develop a large plantation system, and most farms were small. The mountainous western region and the coastal plains presented

challenges for large-scale plantation agriculture.

The Piedmont region, with its fertile land, was more favorable to farming, but even there, farms tended to be small. The region's rolling hills and less fertile soil made large-scale plantation agriculture difficult compared to the flat, expansive lands of the coastal plains. Additionally, the Piedmont had a growing population of small, independent farmers who relied on family labor rather than enslaved workers. Despite this, slavery was still widespread. Almost one-third of the population in the state in 1860 was enslaved. Even in the western region, where farms were small and fewer in number, enslaved people were present, although in smaller numbers.

North Carolina strongly supported the concept of states' rights. Most North Carolinians believed states should have the **autonomy** to govern themselves. This was especially true regarding slavery and economic policies. They opposed federal interference in these matters.

Vocabulary

autonomy, n. the power and freedom to self-govern or make one's own choices

In the 1830s, the issue of states' rights had threatened to split the country. Northern business owners favored high tariffs. Tariffs are taxes on imported goods that make products from other countries more expensive. They make goods produced by American companies more competitive. People in the South disliked tariffs because they had few factories and imported many goods. An 1828 federal tariff law put high tariffs on many goods that Southerners imported. South Carolina passed a law declaring it would not enforce the tariff. President Andrew Jackson threatened to send federal troops to force the state to obey the law. Finally, Congress passed a new tariff that lowered rates, easing the situation. But tensions remained, especially over slavery and the relationship of the South to the federal government. In addition, many in the South supported the idea that states could nullify, or cancel, federal laws.

The presidential election of 1860 brought matters to a head. Republican Abraham Lincoln won the election by sweeping the states in the North, Midwest, and West. North Carolina split its votes between Southern Democrat John C. Breckenridge and Constitutional Union candidate John Bell. Lincoln wasn't even on the ballot in most Southern states, including North Carolina, due to widespread opposition

to the Republican Party's anti-slavery platform in the South.

Lincoln's election in 1860 created a firestorm in the South. He had campaigned on preventing the expansion of slavery into new territories but pledged not to interfere with it where it already existed. Still, many in the South did not trust him or the Republican Party. His election raised concerns among many Southerners; they felt their economy, which revolved around slavery, was threatened.

On December 20, a convention in South Carolina voted to **secede** from the Union. Six other states soon followed. Together, they formed the Confederate States of America, saying it was a new nation. North Carolina decided not to leave the United States, however. Instead, it adopted a "watch and wait" approach to see how Lincoln would meet the crisis.

Vocabulary

secede, v. to formally withdraw membership

The state's cautious stance stemmed from a combination of factors. A large portion of North Carolina's population remained loyal to the Union. Support for the Union was particularly strong in the



This illustration shows a crowd in New York City eagerly awaiting news of Abraham Lincoln's election victory in 1860. People in North Carolina were not pleased with Lincoln's election.

western part of the state, where there were fewer enslaved people and less reliance on plantation agriculture. North Carolina had also developed strong economic ties with Northern states. Its ports facilitated trade with the North, and its textile industry relied on Northern markets for raw materials and finished goods. And while cotton was important to North Carolina's economy, it was not as dominant as in some other Southern states, making North Carolina less dependent on the institution of slavery

for its economic well-being. Finally, many of North Carolina's political leaders believed that secession was a drastic step and hoped that a compromise could be reached to preserve the Union.

Think Twice



Why were the people of North Carolina hesitant to secede from the Union?

Hopes for a peaceful settlement faded in April 1861, shortly after Lincoln took

office. Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter, a Union-controlled fort in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. President Lincoln directed the states to supply troops to stop the rebellion. Many North Carolinians did not want to fight against other neighboring Southern states. The state held a convention on May 20, 1861, which voted to leave the Union and become the tenth state to join the Confederacy.

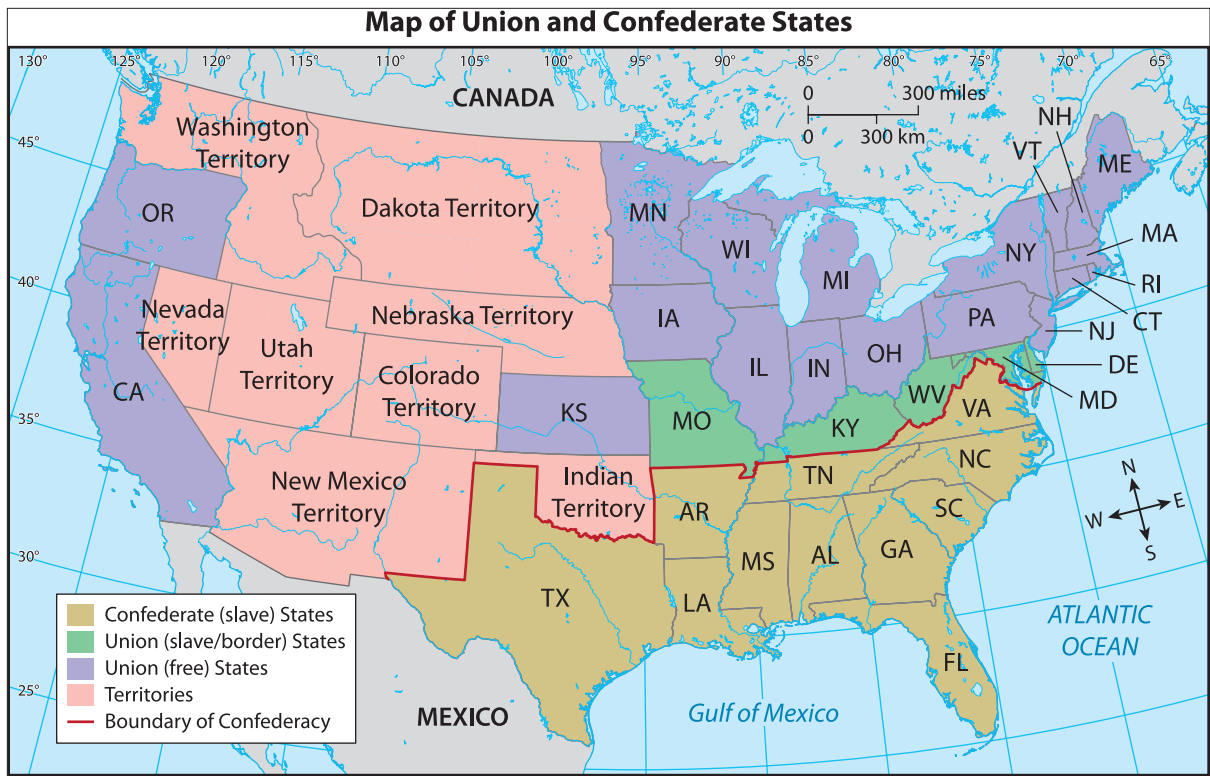


North Carolina in the Civil War

When the Civil War began in 1861, many believed it would be a short war. Northerners underestimated the Confederacy's resolve and military capabilities. They believed that the North's industrial superiority, larger population, and greater wealth would quickly overwhelm the Confederacy. There was also a widespread belief in the North that the South's secession was a bluff and that the Confederate states would quickly back down once faced with the prospect of a full-scale war. If war did break out, many Northerners believed that a few battles would force the Confederacy to surrender.

These Northerners were very wrong. The war grew into a long and bloody struggle between the Union (the North) and the Confederacy (the South). President Lincoln sought to preserve the Union and refused to acknowledge the Confederacy as a nation. Instead, he declared the seceded states to be in rebellion, framing the conflict as an internal matter. He asserted the federal government's duty to maintain unity, uphold the Constitution, and safeguard what he saw as an experiment in democracy. This assertion set the stage for a war that would test the very foundations of the United States.

North Carolina provided approximately 125,000 troops to the Confederate army, more than any other Confederate state except for Virginia. This contribution was partly fueled by the Confederate draft in 1862, which called men into military service. North Carolina also suffered the highest number of casualties, with tens of thousands of North Carolinians killed, wounded, captured, or missing in action. Disease proved to be a particularly deadly foe. Overcrowded camps, unsanitary conditions, and limited medical knowledge led to outbreaks of dysentery, typhoid, measles, and pneumonia, which claimed the lives



By 1861, eleven Southern states seceded from the Union and attempted to become a new country known as the Confederate States of America.

of countless soldiers. These diseases often spread rapidly through the ranks, debilitating entire regiments and leaving them vulnerable on the battlefield. In fact, more Civil War soldiers died from disease than from combat wounds.

North Carolina troops participated in important Civil War battles. The Battle of Antietam, fought in Maryland in 1862, was the single bloodiest day in American history. North Carolinians joined other Confederate troops in a fierce battle along Antietam Creek. The Confederacy suffered more than 10,000 casualties.

The battle stopped a Confederate advance into the Union. The Union victory also gave President Lincoln the opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, ending slavery in areas under Confederate control. The Battle of Gettysburg, fought in Pennsylvania in July 1863, was a turning point in the war. North Carolina troops helped drive Union forces back on the first day of the battle. However, the battle eventually ended in a Union victory. The contributions of North Carolina's soldiers to the Confederate war effort were substantial, but the human

cost was great, with more than 40,000 casualties.

North Carolina's economy also helped the Confederate war effort. Farmers gave food and other supplies to the Confederate army. Factories produced weapons and other war materials. However, North Carolina's location made it particularly vulnerable to Union attack.

North Carolina's extensive coastline and proximity to the North made it more accessible to the U.S. Army and, even more significantly, the U.S. Navy. This vulnerability was evident early in the

war with the Union's capture of coastal areas like Hatteras Island and the Outer Banks in 1861. The following year, the U.S. Navy captured New Bern, a port city and railroad hub, giving the Union a foothold in the state's interior.

North Carolina's railroads and waterways, important for transporting Confederate troops, supplies, and war goods, also provided paths for Union advances. The state's reliance on these transportation routes made them targets for Union raids and attacks.



This 1862 image shows a fight between Union and Confederate gunboats off North Carolina near New Bern. A Union victory here led to Union occupation of New Bern and several other North Carolina towns. This effort was part of the Union's blockade of the Confederacy.

In addition, the U.S. Navy's **blockade** of Confederate ports had a damaging impact on North Carolina's economy and trade. Wilmington, a major port city and a hub for supplying the Confederacy, became a target. The blockade disrupted the flow of goods into and out of the state, leading to shortages of essential supplies and causing economic hardship for many.

Vocabulary

blockade, n. a military strategy aimed at preventing people and goods from entering or leaving an area

To get around the blockade, blockade runners attempted to slip past Union

ships and bring much-needed supplies to the Confederacy. Fort Fisher, a large Confederate fort near Wilmington, helped protect blockade runners. However, in 1865, Union forces captured Fort Fisher, closing Wilmington to blockade runners and delivering a major blow to the Confederate war effort.

The Union's control of key coastal areas exacerbated North Carolina's economic woes. The presence of Union forces in New Bern and other occupied areas disrupted trade routes, restricted movement, and imposed martial law, further hindering economic activity and civilian life. This



The Union capture of Fort Fisher in 1865 seriously weakened the Confederacy's ability to continue the war by cutting off the flow of supplies into Wilmington.

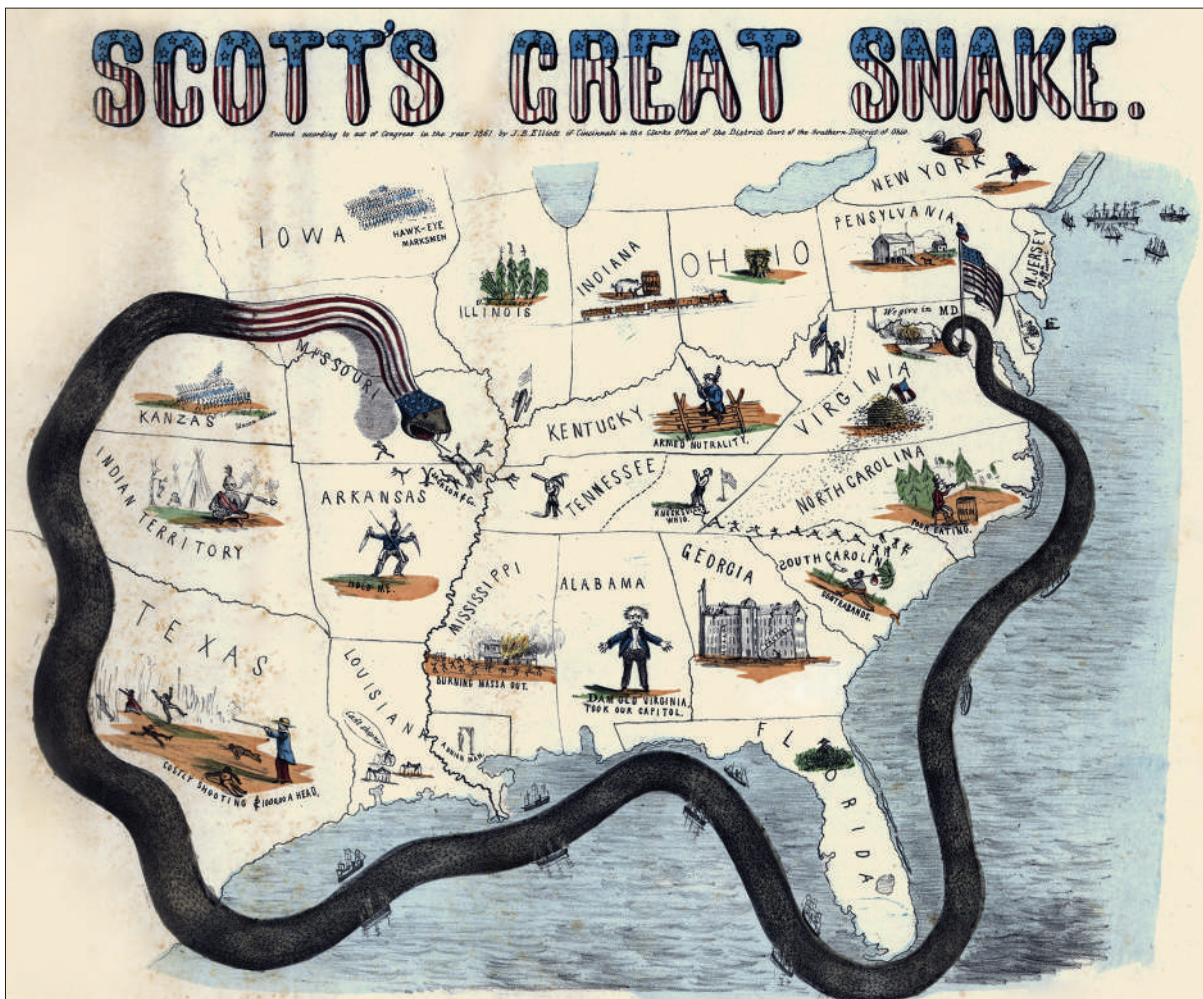
occupation foreshadowed North Carolina's challenges after the war, when federal intervention and military presence became a constant reality for the state.

North Carolina's civilians were greatly affected by the war. The Union blockade, combined with the Confederate government's focus on supplying its army, led to widespread shortages of

food, clothing, and medicine. **Inflation** soared, and many civilians struggled to make ends meet. Women, in the absence of men who were away fighting, took on new roles, managing farms and

Vocabulary

inflation, n. a rise in prices and a fall in the purchasing power of money



The Union capture of port cities, enforced by blockades, and the capture of the Mississippi River was a crucial part of the Northern war strategy known as the Anaconda Plan.

businesses. Enslaved people lived in an uncertain state during the war. With North Carolina in Confederate hands, they were still bound by the institution of slavery despite the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. Some found ways to escape to Union lines in hopes of making that promise real. Others had to continue to work for Confederates and many had the added hardship of being forced to work for the Confederate army or on War-related projects.



Think Twice

What were the biggest challenges faced by North Carolina's soldiers and civilians during the Civil War?

The Civil War finally ended in 1865 after four devastating years of conflict and an estimated 700,000 deaths. North Carolina, like much of the South, lay in ruins. While the Confederate surrender brought an end to fighting, the state's landscape was ravaged and its economy ruined.

The war's impact was profound across all regions of North Carolina—from the coastal plains to the Piedmont and even the mountainous west. Railroads, bridges, and entire towns had been damaged or destroyed in battles, raids, and the

scorched-earth policies employed by both armies. Many factories and mills that had been shifted to making military goods were inoperable, crippling the state's ability to produce manufactured goods. Many homes and farms had suffered as well. The widespread destruction would make it difficult for communities to recover after the war.

The Confederate economy, already strained by the war effort, was in shambles by the end of the conflict. Rampant inflation had rendered Confederate currency virtually worthless, leaving many North Carolinians with little to no financial resources. The Union's naval blockade had severely disrupted trade, causing shortages of essential goods and further increasing economic hardship.

In contrast, the Northern economy, which had entered the war with a significant industrial advantage, emerged from the conflict even stronger. The war stimulated industrial production in the North, leading to economic growth and expansion. This disparity in economic conditions between the North and the South had long-lasting consequences as the South struggled to rebuild its shattered economy and infrastructure.

The war's physical and economic devastation presented challenges for North Carolina's recovery. Rebuilding communities, restoring infrastructure, and revitalizing the economy would be a long process, further complicated by the social and political upheavals that accompanied the end of slavery and the beginning of Reconstruction.



Emancipation and Reconstruction

The end of the Civil War ushered in a period of profound change for North Carolina and the entire South. This period of rebuilding and reshaping society in the South is called Reconstruction. During the war, the Emancipation Proclamation had declared enslaved people in Confederate-controlled areas to be free. Soon after, the Thirteenth

Amendment abolished slavery throughout the United States. Reconstruction aimed to rebuild the South while integrating newly freed African Americans into society. The Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship and equal protection under the law to all people born or naturalized in the United States. The Fifteenth protected the right to vote for African Americans.

Congress established an office called the Freedmen's Bureau in 1865 to aid formerly enslaved people. It provided education, health care, and legal assistance to African Americans, helping many begin to establish themselves as citizens and members of society. However, many white Southerners opposed this effort. They disliked the federal presence in the state, seeing the federal government as a threat to existing social and economic systems.



This 1866 image shows a settlement of formerly enslaved people along the Trent River in North Carolina.

The new amendments and reforms, driven by a Republican-controlled Congress, did not reflect the views of many white Southerners, who resented federal intervention and the changing social order. This resentment led some to form **white supremacist** groups like the Ku Klux Klan. These groups used violence and terror—including **lynchings**, beatings, and the

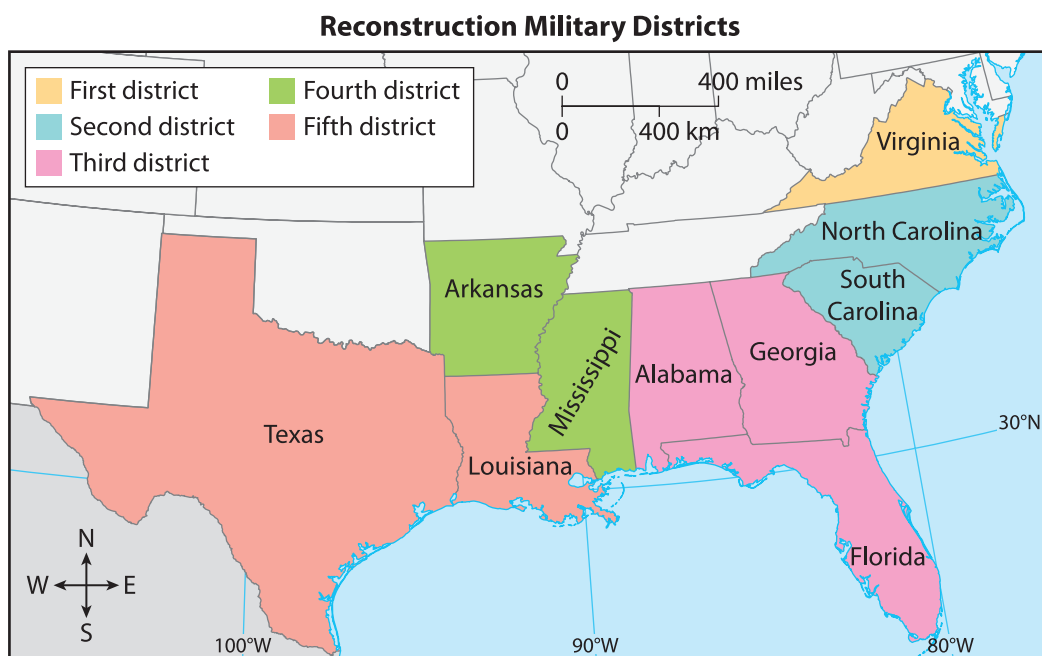
burning of homes—to frighten African Americans and prevent them from voting.

To enforce federal laws and protect African American citizens, most former Confederate states were divided into military districts. In 1871, Congress passed the Third Enforcement Act, also known as the Ku Klux Klan Act, which gave the federal government greater power to intervene. Under this law, federal troops were deployed forcefully in some areas—including North Carolina—to arrest Klan members and suppress white supremacist violence.

Vocabulary

white supremacist, adj. relating to people or groups who believe that white people are superior to members of other groups

lynching, n. the killing of a person by a mob, often by hanging



The Union established five military districts in the South during Reconstruction.

In North Carolina, which was part of Military District No. 2, the presence of federal troops helped curb violence and ensure stability. The federal government also required former Confederate states to ratify the Reconstruction Amendments as a condition for readmission to the Union. Furthermore, former Confederates were required to take an oath of allegiance to the United States, renouncing secession and pledging support for the Constitution.

Despite many challenges, African Americans made some gains during Reconstruction. In 1868, North Carolina adopted a new constitution, written with the participation of African American delegates, that included equal rights for African American men, including the right to vote. This era saw the rise of remarkable African American leaders in North Carolina, such as Abraham H. Galloway, an abolitionist and advocate for African American rights who eventually became a state senator. Another example is Henry Eppes, a formerly enslaved man who became a state senator. John Adams Hyman was a skilled carpenter who served as a state representative and later as a North Carolina representative in Congress. These individuals reflected major societal

changes during Reconstruction as African Americans stepped into political roles and actively shaped the state's future.

However, many of these gains faced resistance almost immediately after the Civil War. Under President Andrew Johnson's lenient Reconstruction policies, white-dominated Southern governments, including in North Carolina, passed a series of discriminatory laws known as **Black Codes**. These laws severely restricted the rights and freedoms of African Americans. They required African Americans to sign yearly labor contracts with white landowners, and those who refused could be arrested for vagrancy and forced into labor under conditions that echoed slavery.

These early efforts to limit African American freedom alarmed Radical Republicans in Congress and helped lead to the passage of the Reconstruction Acts, which dissolved those Southern governments and ended the enforcement of Black Codes.

Vocabulary

Black Codes, n. laws passed in Southern states to limit the freedoms of African Americans after the Civil War

Reconstruction ended with the Compromise of 1877. The disputed presidential election of 1876 between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel J. Tilden led to intense political negotiations. As part of the compromise, Democrats accepted Hayes as president. In exchange, Republicans agreed to end Reconstruction in the South and withdraw the remaining federal troops that had helped enforce Reconstruction policies and protect African American citizens.

After Reconstruction ended, white Southern Democrats regained control of state governments across the South. In the decades that followed, Southern states established a system of racial segregation and voting restrictions known as Jim Crow laws. These laws enforced segregation in public spaces and limited African American voting rights. White dominance was maintained through discriminatory laws, intimidation, and violence.

Think Twice

What do you think were the biggest obstacles to achieving equality for African Americans during Reconstruction?



The withdrawal of federal troops after the Compromise of 1877 marked the end of Reconstruction in North Carolina and the rest of the South. As federal enforcement of Reconstruction policies ended, many of the gains made by African Americans after the Civil War were reversed. White supremacy remained deeply embedded in North Carolina society, and African Americans faced renewed discrimination. The loss of hard-won political rights would have devastating consequences for African Americans in North Carolina and across the South. It would take nearly one hundred years of struggle and sacrifice, culminating in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, before African Americans would regain the full rights of citizenship.



The Reconstruction Economy

The Civil War left North Carolina's economy in ruins. Towns and cities had damaged buildings and destroyed bridges. Transportation networks were disrupted. Agriculture suffered too. Plantations and farms were abandoned or destroyed, and the sudden shift from enslaved labor to a free labor system created confusion. The result was a period of economic decline.

To survive, many farmers in North Carolina turned to **sharecropping** and **tenant farming**. In sharecropping, landowners, often former slaveholders, would divide their fields into small plots. Farmers called sharecroppers would work these plots of land. Sharecroppers were often formerly enslaved people who owned no land of

their own. In return for working a plot, a sharecropper would keep a share of the crops harvested. The landowner would often provide housing, tools, and sometimes seeds and fertilizer. Tenant farming was a system in which farmers rented land from a landowner and paid a fixed rent, either in cash or crops. Tenant farmers had more control over their crops and farming than sharecroppers and potentially more opportunity for profit.

Both sharecropping and tenant farming often resulted in cycles of debt and poverty, making it difficult for sharecroppers and tenant farmers to improve their economic situation. Landowners often charged high rents or demanded a large share of the

Vocabulary

sharecropper, n. a farmer who works land owned by someone else and pays the landowner with a share of the crops they grow

tenant farmer, n. a farmer who rents land and pays the landowner a fixed amount of money or crops



After the Civil War, many formerly enslaved people in North Carolina turned to sharecropping or tenant farming and focused on growing cotton.

crops. As a result, sharecroppers and tenant farmers had little to show for their labor. Many were forced to borrow money to buy supplies and equipment, further increasing their debt. Sharecropping and tenant farming helped people survive after the war. In the long run, though, these practices maintained economic inequality and made it hard for many North Carolinians to get ahead. This was especially true for African Americans.

Writers' Corner



Imagine you are a tenant farmer living in North Carolina during Reconstruction. Write a letter to a friend or family member describing your experiences and hopes for the future.

Despite these challenges, there were some signs of economic growth in the state during Reconstruction. Some industries, like textile mills and railroads, grew. They offered new job opportunities and helped North Carolina's economy depend less on farming. Cities like Charlotte and Raleigh began to grow again. But growth was uneven. Many rural areas, especially in the eastern part of the state, struggled with poverty.

African Americans, many newly freed from slavery, and women helped rebuild the state's economy. Some established businesses, farms, and communities.

Harriet Jacobs and Elizabeth Keckley had been enslaved in North Carolina before the Civil War. Both dedicated themselves to helping African Americans affected by the war. Jacobs, who had escaped slavery in North Carolina, worked in refugee camps and established a school for freed children in Virginia. Keckley had purchased her freedom and became a successful seamstress and friend of Mary Todd Lincoln, the president's wife. She used her influence to organize relief efforts and provide aid to those made homeless by the war. These women, along with countless others, demonstrated resilience and a commitment to helping their communities during a time of profound change and uncertainty.

Indigenous groups like the Cherokee also faced challenges in the postwar economy. They struggled to rebuild their communities and adapt to the changes often forced upon them. The legacy of the war and the ongoing struggle for equality continued to affect North Carolina's economic development for many years.

Find Out the Facts



Research the experiences of African Americans in North Carolina during Reconstruction. What challenges did they face, and what progress did they make in gaining equality and building new lives?

Chapter 6

North Carolina in an Era of Change

Big Question


How did North Carolina and the nation change in the late 1800s and early 1900s?



More Than a Street

The street bustled with energy as shoppers and business owners moved along. This wasn't just any street—it was Durham's "Black Wall Street" in the early 1900s. At the center of this busy street stood what became the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance building. Inside, owner John Merrick sold life insurance policies to the city's African American population. Merrick and other business owners on the busy street were part of something transformative. Despite the challenges facing African Americans at this time, they were successfully building their businesses—and their community.





The North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, founded by John Merrick, still stands in Durham today.

Merrick was a formerly enslaved man from Clinton, North Carolina. He started as a barber and then became an **entrepreneur** and community leader. He and a partner ran the life insurance company they founded in 1898. They also bought a bank that served African Americans in Durham. Both businesses were cornerstones of the city's Black Wall Street's success.

Vocabulary

entrepreneur, n. a person who starts a business

Merrick's vision extended beyond business. He believed that Durham's African American population could build economic success by working together. He also worked closely with white business leaders in the city. He helped create a company that built houses for families who moved to cities to work in tobacco factories. Many were African American families. He served as president of Lincoln Hospital, which provided health care for the African American community. He gave some of his own money to support a public library for African Americans. He also donated to Kittrell College, which trained African American teachers. Merrick's legacy showcased the power of vision, determination, and commitment to building community.



The Gilded Age and the Second Industrial Revolution

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were a time of great change in the United States, including North Carolina. This era was defined by rapid industrial growth, advances in technology, and social changes. Some people made vast fortunes, but this prosperity was not shared equally. The period became known as the Gilded Age. To be “gilded” means to be covered thinly in gold. The name suggested the reality of the time. While the era appeared wealthy on the surface, underneath lay major problems of poverty and inequality. Wealth increased for some, while many others remained in poverty. The Gilded Age offered a glittering surface that masked deep social problems.

This era was also shaped by the Second Industrial Revolution. New technologies and **mass production** transformed the nation’s economy and society. These changes reshaped how people lived and worked.

Vocabulary

mass production, n. the process of making very large amounts of something

The Second Industrial Revolution, building upon the first, was a period of great innovation. Factories became bigger and more efficient, using new machines and processes to produce massive numbers of goods. Railroad companies built more rail lines and more powerful locomotives to pull longer trains. They hauled goods across the country. Other companies constructed larger steamships that carried products to faraway markets. These improvements made it easier and cheaper to move raw materials and products.

New inventions dramatically changed how people lived and worked. They included things like the telephone, the light bulb, the typewriter, and the automobile—things we still rely on today. This innovation explosion drove the period’s economic growth and laid the foundation for the modern world.

The Gilded Age saw the rise of powerful business leaders, praised by some as “captains of industry” and criticized by others for their business practices. Andrew Carnegie, the wealthiest man of his era, revolutionized steel production, making it cheaper and more efficient. He also crushed his competitors and kept wages low for his workers. John D. Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil, drove many rival

companies out of business by cutting prices, so they lost money. Once they were gone, he raised prices, forcing customers to pay more. As a result, he gained a near **monopoly** of the oil industry. These “robber barons,” as they were also called, created enormous fortunes, but their methods often raised concerns about fairness to workers and consumers. Their wealth also gave them immense political power, prompting charges that they benefitted from **corruption**. Opponents claimed they paid members of Congress and other government workers to

influence how the laws that regulated their businesses were written.

Vocabulary

monopoly, n. complete ownership or control of a resource or industry

corruption, n. dishonest or illegal behavior, especially by people with power

This national trend was mirrored in North Carolina. Industries like textiles and tobacco boomed, reshaping the state’s economy. Textile mills sprang up across the Piedmont region, taking advantage of the cotton grown there and



This 1889 political cartoon identifies the leaders of various industries—called “trusts”—as the overseers and “Bosses of the Senate.”

low-wage labor, including women and children. Cities like Greensboro and High Point became major centers for cotton production, furniture manufacturing, and other industries, driving the growth of mill towns. The tobacco industry also boomed, particularly through the growth of the American Tobacco Company in Durham. This company, under the leadership of James B. Duke, controlled the national tobacco market.

Technological innovations—particularly railroads and mechanized production—fueled North Carolina’s economic growth. Railroads accelerated the transport of goods and people, linking the state to new markets while reducing the time and cost of moving raw materials. Factories became increasingly mechanized, causing

gains in both efficiency and output that further boosted the state’s industrial development.

Business leaders gained such vast fortunes that they could construct enormous homes like the Biltmore Estate, built by the Vanderbilt family in Asheville using railroad money. The growth of cities like Charlotte and Wilmington, driven by industry and better transportation, also changed North Carolina’s landscape and social fabric.

Think Twice

The Gilded Age is often remembered for its economic growth. However, what were some of the negative consequences of this period?



The Biltmore Estate, a tourist attraction today, was built by George Vanderbilt II between 1889 and 1895. It has thirty-five bedrooms, forty-three bathrooms, three kitchens, and a dining table with seating for sixty-four people.



Migration, Urbanization, and Economic Inequality

The late 1800s saw important shifts in population patterns in North Carolina. These changes were driven by industrial growth and the growth of transportation networks. Cities like Durham, Charlotte, and Greensboro experienced rapid growth as railways connected urban areas and markets, making it easier for people and goods to move. Several factors fueled this growth. One was the movement of African Americans from rural areas to urban centers in search of jobs. Many African Americans moved in search of jobs and to escape the hardships of sharecropping. Once in urban areas, many found that opportunities in cities were also limited by racial discrimination.

This internal movement to cities was part of a larger national trend. The growth of industry in the Northeast and Midwest drew people from rural areas in those regions to the cities that held factories. The creation of new jobs also attracted millions of immigrants from Europe in the period from 1880 to 1920. The expansion of railroads, a key element of this growth, connected North Carolina's cities and

aided this broader westward movement. The availability of land in the West also influenced migration patterns, although this expansion often came at a great cost, including the displacement of many Native American communities.

In North Carolina, urban growth was mainly a matter of movement from the countryside. The state did not attract huge numbers of immigrants. Still, there were new arrivals from Lebanon in the 1890s and from Italy and Greece after 1900. These immigrants added to the state's cultural diversity.

As you read about earlier, African Americans continued to play important roles in North Carolina's economic development. They did so despite facing economic inequality and limited opportunities. In Durham, African American entrepreneurs like John Merrick and Charles Spaulding showed resilience and resourcefulness in helping build the "Black Wall Street." This area, named after the famous financial district in New York City, became a thriving center of African American-owned businesses. They established businesses, banks, and other institutions that served the African American population and contributed to the city's economic growth.

Women played a major role in North Carolina's industrial development. This was especially true in the growing textile industry. By 1880, women and children made up as much as 75 percent of the state's mill workers. Textile mill owners often hired women and children because they could pay them less than they had to pay men. By 1910, North Carolina had the nation's highest percentage of women working outside the home. Just over a third of the state's women had jobs. However, women's jobs were not distributed equally. For example, African American women were excluded from the state's textile mills as the owners would not hire African Americans. They could work in tobacco factories, however. By 1890, more than 42 percent of African American women were employed outside the home, compared to about 15 percent of white women. African American women tended to have lower-paying jobs and more physically demanding work, such as domestic service or farm labor.



Think Twice

While the late 1800s and early 1900s saw increased opportunities for some women in North Carolina, what factors limited the kinds of jobs they could hold and the wages they could earn? How did race play a role in these limitations?



Progressivism and Reform in North Carolina

The Progressive Era was a response to the Gilded Age and the Second Industrial Revolution. It was a period of widespread social and political reform in the United States. It aimed to address the challenges brought about by the rapid growth of industries and cities. The idea of “progress”—moving forward and improving society—was central to the Progressive movement. Progressives sought to address problems like government corruption, poor working conditions, low wages, and limited access to education. They believed that the government should play a more active role in creating a just and **equitable** society. This national movement included North Carolina, leading to reforms in labor, education, and public health.

Vocabulary

equitable, adj. fair

The Progressive movement began in response to the social and economic problems of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Rapid industrial growth had created wealth for some but

led to widespread poverty and inequality. Factory working conditions were often dangerous, as there were no laws about workplace safety. Workers toiled for ten to twelve hours a day, six days a week, for low pay. City life was noisy, dirty, and crowded. People in many parts of the country had little access to education. This was particularly true for people living in poverty and for African Americans. Children who worked in North Carolina's textile mills often had little more than a third- or fourth-grade education. These conditions, combined with growing concerns about political corruption and

the power of large corporations, fueled the rise of Progressivism.

A North Carolina pastor named Alexander J. McKelway was part of a national effort to ban child labor. He worked with photographer Lewis Hine to have visual and written proof of the harsh and dangerous conditions faced by child workers. They hoped to win the support of middle-class voters to pass laws banning the practice.

In North Carolina, the Progressive movement led to several important



Photographs like this one of a North Carolina child textile worker formed part of Progressive reformers' efforts to get laws passed to end child labor.

reforms. In the area of labor, Progressives worked to win passage of laws to protect workers, such as limits on working hours and some safety regulations. In 1903, North Carolina passed a law that barred children under age twelve from working in factories, mines, and other industries. Another law said that factory workers could not be made to work more than sixty-six hours each week. New federal laws also forced factory owners to give employees better working conditions. Often, these labor laws were not enforced. Many workers continued to labor in harsh conditions.

Although these reforms were not always fully enforced, they showed a growing recognition of workers' rights. Progressives also supported advances in education. Their goals included more funding for public schools, better teacher training, and broader access to education for all children. Better public health was another Progressive aim. They sought to improve sanitation, prevent the spread of disease, ensure the safety of food and medicines, and raise people's awareness of public health issues.

The Progressive Era wasn't just about ideas. It was driven by the actions of real people. Charles Duncan McIver, for example, dedicated his life to improving

education, especially for white women. His work established teacher-training colleges that significantly improved the quality of education in North Carolina.

Women played a crucial role in the Progressive movement, both nationally and in North Carolina. For example, Ida Tarbell was a pioneering investigative journalist whose 1904 work, *The History of the Standard Oil Company*, revealed the unethical business practices of John



This monument to Charles Duncan McIver on the grounds of the State Capitol honors his contributions to education in the state.

D. Rockefeller's oil empire. Her work contributed to public outcry against corporate monopolies and helped lead to the 1911 Supreme Court decision to break up Standard Oil.

Some women joined groups that worked for women's suffrage. By 1914, the goal of attaining the right for women to vote was still not achieved. Another movement saw more success. Organizations like the Women's Christian **Temperance** Union (WCTU) worked for a ban on alcohol. Supporters argued that drinking caused a host of social problems, such as violence, and contributed to poverty. This movement gained success in North Carolina in 1908 when voters approved a new law that banned the making and sale of alcohol across the state. Eleven years later, the country would ban the sale and consumption of alcohol completely.

Vocabulary

temperance, n. the practice of drinking little or no alcohol

These organizations provided a platform for women to engage in politics. While some reforms focused on improving the lives of women and children, others reflected the social attitudes and biases of the time. For example, while many

white women fought for better schooling, they did not work to extend these opportunities to African American women. Many women's suffrage organizations also excluded African American women, and Progressives did not push to end segregated schools.

Think Twice



How did the rapid industrial growth of the Gilded Age contribute to social problems?

Jim Crow and the Struggle for Civil Rights

Despite the progress made during the Progressive Era, African Americans in North Carolina and across the South faced increasing discrimination and oppression. Jim Crow laws, which became the informal name for laws that enforced segregation, became widespread. These laws were designed to maintain a racial **hierarchy** that limited the rights and opportunities

Vocabulary

hierarchy, n. a system in which people or groups are ranked one above the other according to status or authority



This photo of a segregated water jug—a large container used to hold and dispense drinking water—in the South was taken in 1939, showing that the discriminatory practices of the Jim Crow era continued for decades.

of African Americans. They required separate facilities for African Americans and whites in schools, transportation, restaurants, restrooms, and other public spaces. Some laws prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote, **disenfranchising** them from the basic rights of citizenship.

Vocabulary

disenfranchise, v. to deprive someone of the right to vote or other rights of citizenship

North Carolina and other Southern states passed laws that stripped African American citizens of their voting rights. In 1900, North Carolina amended its state constitution to formally disenfranchise Black voters. This amendment introduced a literacy test and poll tax as voting requirements and included a grandfather

clause that allowed men to bypass these rules if their grandfathers had been eligible to vote in 1867.

Poll taxes required citizens to pay a fee to vote—a cost many African Americans could not afford. Literacy tests, though presented as neutral assessments of reading and writing skills, were often made extremely difficult and were applied in ways that disadvantaged African American voters. The grandfather clause offered a loophole for white voters: since most African Americans were enslaved and ineligible to vote before the Civil War, the clause effectively exempted poor or uneducated white men while excluding Black citizens. These laws remained in place for decades, suppressing Black political participation across the South.

Some white people also used violence and intimidation to terrorize African Americans and enforce segregation. Sometimes, mobs of whites carried out lynchings, killing African Americans often based on accusations or alleged violations of social norms. Between 1882 and 1968, there were 4,743 documented lynchings in the United States, with the majority of victims being African American. North Carolina recorded eighty-six lynchings during that time.

The Wilmington Massacre of 1898 was a large-scale example of racial violence during this period. A white mob, driven by extreme prejudice and a desire to stop and reverse African American political and economic progress, overthrew the city's elected government. The government had both Black and white officials. The mob targeted successful African American citizens and businesses. Many were killed and thousands were driven from the city, their homes and businesses destroyed. The massacre effectively erased much of

Wilmington's thriving African American middle class. It was a turning point in North Carolina's history, solidifying white supremacist rule. It led to further disenfranchisement of African American citizens for years to come.

Think Twice



How did Jim Crow laws and practices undermine the fundamental principles of American democracy? Consider the ideas of "liberty and justice for all" and the right to vote.



A flag reading "A man was lynched yesterday" hangs from the NAACP headquarters in New York City. The flag was part of the NAACP's effort to fight racial violence and injustice during the Jim Crow era.

Despite immense challenges, African Americans fought for their rights. The Niagara Movement, founded in 1905 by historian and activist W. E. B. Du Bois and others, advocated for equality and an end to segregation. This group of African American activists met near Niagara Falls, on the Canadian side, because hotels on the American side of the falls refused to admit African American guests. From here, they issued a declaration of principles demanding full civil rights for African Americans.

Another key group that evolved out of the Niagara Movement was the NAACP, or the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, founded in 1909. The NAACP was founded by a group of individuals in New York City who recognized the need for a strong, organized effort to challenge segregation through legal means. The idea of using the courts to fight for civil rights became a cornerstone of the group. Over time, these ideas traveled out of the North and into the South. People in North Carolina formed the state's first chapter of the group in 1917.

Ida B. Wells, a journalist and activist, exposed the horrors of lynching through her writings. She documented the frequency and brutality of lynchings,

showing that these violent acts were not justified, as some whites claimed. In fact, it's almost certain that many of the victims were innocent. Booker T. Washington argued that African Americans should focus on learning job skills and building their own businesses. He believed that economic independence would eventually lead to more civil rights. Still, he also supported legal challenges to segregation. W. E. B. Du Bois, on the other hand, argued that African Americans should demand immediate civil rights and higher education



Ida B. Wells, who documented and challenged the practice of lynching, brought national attention to racial injustice.

opportunities. Unlike Washington, who emphasized economic self-sufficiency as a path to progress, Du Bois saw direct political action and protest as essential to achieving full racial equality.



Find Out the Facts

Research the life and work of either Ida B. Wells, W. E. B. Du Bois, or Booker T. Washington. What were their contributions to the struggle for civil rights?

During this time, African Americans made significant strides in business, culture, and the arts. Durham's "Black Wall Street" became a symbol of African American economic success. It showed just how successful African American businesses could be, even with discrimination. Blues and jazz music emerged as powerful expressions of African American culture and experience. This music reflected the joys, sorrows, and endurance of African American life in the Jim Crow South. Over time, these musical forms spread across the country, influencing mainstream music and culture.

North Carolina's Native Americans also faced difficulties in the Progressive Era. Pressure on them to assimilate continued. Still, they fought to preserve their cultural heritage. The Eastern Band of Cherokee, who had resisted removal in the 1830s, continued to maintain their distinct identity and traditions on the Qualla Boundary. They faced challenges to their sovereignty and land rights, but they worked to maintain their language and cultural practices. Other tribes, such as the Lumbee, Catawba, and Coharie, worked to gain recognition for their unique identities. They established schools and community organizations to preserve their languages, arts, and traditional practices.

Writers' Corner

Choose one individual or group discussed in this chapter, such as a "robber baron," a textile worker, a Progressive reformer, an African American entrepreneur, or a civil rights activist. Write a short biography of this person or group, focusing on their motivations, actions, and impact on North Carolina or the nation.



Chapter 7

Global Conflict Comes to North Carolina

Big Question

How did global and national events of the first half of the 20th century affect North Carolina?

A Victory Garden

The sun warmed the small patch of earth as a teenage girl knelt. She carefully patted the soil around a tomato seedling. Across North Carolina, families like hers were answering the call to action. Victory gardens were springing up in backyards, empty lots, and even city rooftops. These gardens were more than just a source of fresh food; they were a way for Americans to contribute to the World War II effort.



OURSELF

ARDEN NOW

Government propaganda posters encouraged the planting of victory gardens to provide food for families while allowing farmers' output to feed American troops.



Rural Electrification Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture

The government urged everyone to “feed a fighter” by growing their own food in what were called “war gardens” during World War I and “victory gardens” during World War II. Booklets and posters offered guidance, and communities shared seeds, tools, and knowledge. Many families, like this teen’s, were determined to do their part. Her father, a factory worker producing war supplies, built raised beds in their yard. Her mother, who made uniforms at a textile mill, watered the plants in the evening after her shift. Even her younger brothers helped with weeding and watering. Together, the family felt that they were contributing, even in small ways, in helping to win the war.



World War I

The early years of the twentieth century were a time of global tensions. Germany, France, and Great Britain competed globally for power, land, and resources. Intense **nationalism** fueled a dangerous arms race and a spirit of **militarism**. A complex web of **alliances** among groups of countries complicated matters further. This meant that if one country went to war, others could be pulled into conflict. Europe was poised to explode at the slightest disturbance.

That disturbance came on June 28, 1914, when Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated. The web of alliances drew country after country into the war: Russia, France, and Great Britain on one side as the Allied Powers; Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire on the other as the Central Powers. Within weeks, the major powers of Europe were locked in a deadly conflict, one that quickly spread across the globe.

The United States, under President Woodrow Wilson, declared American **neutrality**. But remaining neutral became more and more difficult as the war dragged on. Germany carried out unrestricted submarine warfare, even sinking civilian

Vocabulary

nationalism, n. the belief that one’s nation is superior to others and that its culture and interests should take precedence over those of other countries

militarism, n. a belief that a country should use its military to increase its power and achieve its goals

alliance, n. an agreement between nations in which they work together toward a common goal or fight on the same side in a war

neutrality, n. the state of not supporting or helping either side in a conflict

ships. One submarine sank a British passenger liner, the *Lusitania*, in 1915. Nearly 1,200 people were killed, including 128 Americans. This act outraged Americans and turned many against Germany.

In 1917, British intelligence intercepted what became known as the Zimmermann Telegram. This secret message from Germany to Mexico proposed that they form a military alliance. Germany promised to support Mexico if it declared war on the United States. When Mexico won, it would regain land it had lost to the United States in the 1800s. This attempt to draw the United States into the war using its neighbor to the south further angered Americans. Finally, in April 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, stating that “the world must be made safe for democracy.” When Congress did so, the United States entered World War I on the side of the Allied Powers.

North Carolina, like the rest of the nation, mobilized for war. More than 86,000 North Carolinians served in the armed forces as soldiers, nurses, and support personnel. Military training camps, such as Camp Bragg and Camp Greene, were established in the state. Built on 2,500 acres (10.1 sq km), Camp Greene housed and trained more than 40,000 soldiers.

War brought an influx of soldiers and activity into the state. Many men joined the military. Because of this, women took on new roles. They filled traditionally male jobs in factories and shipyards and served as nurses near the front lines. African Americans also contributed to the war effort; however, they had to serve in segregated military units and in non-combat roles.

Think Twice

How did World War I affect the roles of women and African Americans in North Carolina?



The war had a major effect on North Carolina’s economy. Industries like agriculture and manufacturing boomed. Farmers increased production to feed the troops. Factories ramped up production of textiles, weapons, and other essential goods. The war also encouraged the building of better infrastructure in the state. Roads and railroads were improved to ease the movement of troops and supplies.

The war brought hardship and sacrifice too. Nearly 2,400 North Carolinians lost their lives in battle or from disease. Another 3,655 were injured in the fighting. Families faced separation and uncertainty. The war also exposed social tensions, particularly racial discrimination. African



U.S. soldiers at Camp Polk train to drive a tank, a new form of military technology in World War I.

American soldiers, despite serving their country in uniform, returned home to face continued inequality and discrimination.

The war finally ended in November 1918 with the signing of an **armistice**. The armistice went into effect on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 AM. The armistice marked the end of fighting, but it did not formally

end the war. That came later with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

World War I claimed the lives of more than twenty-one million people, including soldiers and civilians. The physical destruction in Europe and beyond was widespread, with towns and cities destroyed, farmland torn up, and economies shattered. While the United States did not experience this physical destruction, the mental and emotional scars of the war were deep. A generation was haunted by memories of the suffering they had experienced.

Vocabulary

armistice, n. an agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time

Many hoped World War I would be “the war to end all wars,” but that hope proved to be misplaced. The Treaty of Versailles imposed harsh penalties on Germany. The Allied side largely blamed Germany for starting the war. Germany lost land, had to reduce the size and strength of its armed forces, and was forced to pay money to the victors. This punishment, perceived as harsh by Germans, would contribute to the rise of a larger and even more deadly world conflict.

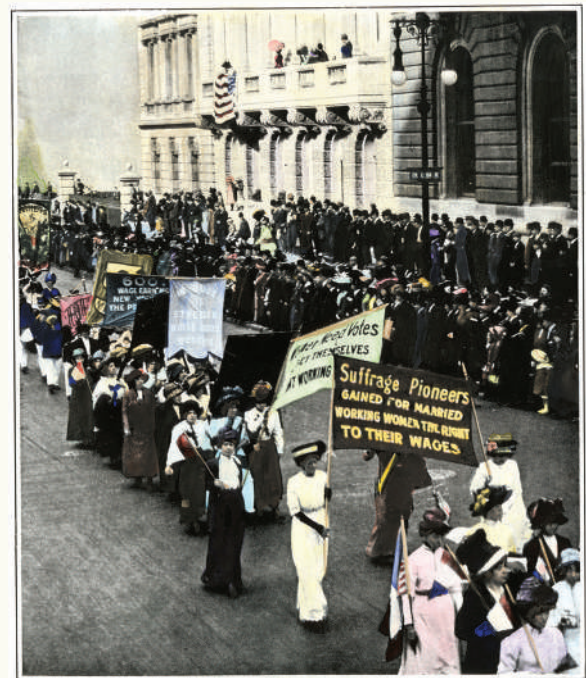
Women's Suffrage

The 1910s also saw progress in the fight for women's suffrage. The Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1920, granted women the right to vote. This was a landmark achievement after decades of activism by suffragists across the country. Suffragists faced harsh criticism and even endured arrest and imprisonment in their pursuit of equality.

National organizations like the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and the National Woman's Party (NWP) played key roles in this movement. NAWSA focused on working to gain voting rights for women in each state. It had some success, and by 1919, fifteen states

allowed women to vote in all elections. The NWP, led by Alice Paul, took a more confrontational approach, organizing parades, picketing the White House, and engaging in hunger strikes to draw attention to their cause.

Leaders like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, pioneers of the suffrage movement, laid the groundwork for this victory. Alice Paul brought new energy and tactics to the movement. These women, along with countless others who marched, organized, and spoke out, finally saw their efforts rewarded with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.



MARCHING ON TO SUFFRAGE

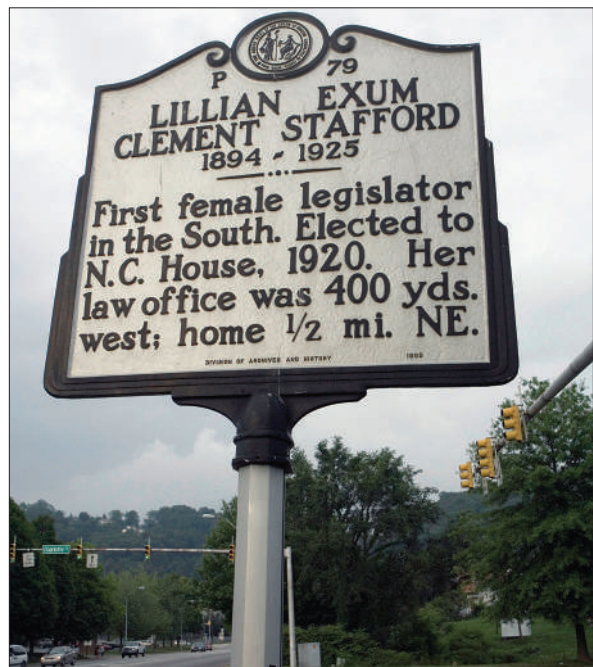
From New York to North Carolina and beyond, women marched and organized for suffrage, demanding the right to vote.

The struggle for women's suffrage took its own course in North Carolina. The North Carolina Equal Suffrage Association, formed in 1894, led the charge. Gertrude Weil advocated tirelessly for women's right to vote. She founded the Goldsboro Equal Suffrage League and served as an officer in the state organization. However, the state's suffrage movement faced strong opposition. Some of these opponents feared that granting women the vote would threaten white supremacy. They believed that if women, especially African American women, were allowed to vote, it would weaken the political power of white men and potentially lead to a challenge to the existing racial hierarchy and segregation laws.

Despite these obstacles, North Carolina suffragists persisted. They organized marches, published pamphlets, and talked to legislators. They formed local suffrage leagues across the state, educating the public and building support for their cause.

While the Nineteenth Amendment was a major victory, the fight for voting rights was not inclusive. Many women of color—African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans—were still excluded from voting. Suffragists like Mary Church Terrell, a founder of

the National Association of Colored Women, and Nannie Helen Burroughs, an educator and activist, fought to include African American women in the suffrage movement. Jovita Idar, a journalist and activist, argued for the rights of Mexican Americans, including women's suffrage. Suffragist and educator Nina Otero-Warren mobilized Hispanic women in New Mexico. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, a Chinese-American suffragist, led suffrage parades and campaigned for the inclusion of Asian American women. Zitkála-Šá fought for Native American rights and suffrage. These women, and many others like them, challenged the



This plaque commemorates the achievements of Lillian Exum Clement Stafford, who was born in Black Mountain and worked in Asheville, North Carolina.

racism within the suffrage movement and fought for a broader vision of voting rights that was multi-ethnic and multi-racial.

However, their efforts were met with resistance, even within the suffrage movement itself. Achieving full voting rights for all women would take decades of further struggle. In fact, North Carolina did not officially ratify the Nineteenth Amendment until 1971.



Find Out the Facts

Research a prominent North Carolina suffragist (for example, Gertrude Weil, Helen Morris Lewis, or Lillian Exum Clement Stafford). Create a short biographical sketch, highlighting their contributions to the movement and any challenges they faced.



The Roaring Twenties and Prohibition

The 1920s in the United States were a time of dramatic social and cultural change, often referred to as the “Roaring Twenties.” For many, it was a period of economic prosperity, technological innovation, and new social freedoms. The rise of mass production made new products

available to consumers. New forms of entertainment like jazz music, radio shows, and Hollywood movies created excitement, particularly in the growing urban areas. Charlotte experienced a major economic boom, becoming a major banking and business hub. It was home to an automobile factory and a major music recording studio.

However, the Roaring Twenties were not equally enjoyed by everyone. Segregation still limited opportunities for African Americans and other minority groups. While some women embraced new freedoms and fashions, others continued to face social limits and inequality. The prosperity of the decade was not evenly distributed, and rural areas and farming communities struggled.

In 1919, the temperance movement achieved a stunning victory. The Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1919, put a national **prohibition** on the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages. This amendment was the end of a long

Vocabulary

prohibition, n. the prevention of something, such as the sale of alcoholic beverages



Flappers, with their short hair, knee-length skirts, and rebellious attitudes, became a symbol of the changing social norms of the Roaring Twenties. While this image shows flappers in the United Kingdom, the “flapper” style and the broader cultural shift it represented were international phenomena, influencing fashion and social attitudes in the United States and North Carolina as well.

campaign by temperance advocates who believed that alcohol caused many social problems.

In North Carolina, the temperance movement had deep roots, with efforts to limit alcohol use dating back to the 1700s. Various temperance societies emerged in the 1800s and gradually gained strength. Their efforts ended in a statewide vote to ban alcohol in 1908.

The national temperance movement continued to gain support after this. One factor leading to Prohibition was the changing role of women in society.

Many women saw Prohibition as a way to protect themselves and children from the negative effects of alcohol. The Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was a major force pushing for Prohibition.

World War I also played a role in the rise of Prohibition. The war created a sense of national unity and a desire to conserve resources. Prohibition was seen by some as a patriotic duty, as it would reduce waste and free up grain for food production. Anti-German ideas also fueled support for Prohibition, as many breweries were owned by German-Americans.



Agents pose with confiscated alcohol during Prohibition. They were following the rules set by Congress in the Volstead Act, a law passed in 1919 to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment.

Prohibition had a complex impact on North Carolina and the nation. While it did lead to a decrease in alcohol use in some areas, it also had unintended secondary consequences. While the supply of alcohol dwindled, there was still a large demand for it. Prohibition fueled the growth of organized crime. Production of illegal liquor became a profitable industry in rural areas. Prohibition also led to increased government corruption and a general disregard for the law.

During Prohibition in the 1920s, North Carolina became a major hub for illegal

moonshine production and distribution. Moonshine is a type of homemade alcohol. As legal alcohol sales were banned, many distillers in rural areas turned to making moonshine, often using remote locations to evade authorities. The state's mountainous terrain and extensive backroads made it ideal for moonshine runners, who would transport the illegal liquor to cities and supply thirsty customers despite the risks of being caught by law enforcement.

In the end, these problems led voters to reconsider the merits of Prohibition. Rising

crime and growing frustration with the law caused a rise in opposition to the ban. In 1933, the states ratified the Twenty-First Amendment. It repealed the Eighteenth Amendment and ended the experiment of banning alcohol. North Carolina weakened its own rules against alcohol and removed its ban altogether in 1937.



Think Twice

How did Prohibition reflect the social and political landscape of the 1920s? What were its unintended consequences?



The Great Depression

The 1920s, with its booming economy and lively culture, came to a sudden end in 1929 when the stock market crashed. This event marked the beginning of the Great Depression. This was a period of economic hardship affecting the United States and the world throughout the 1930s. This devastating economic collapse was caused by a combination of issues.

One major cause was overproduction. Industries had increased production during the 1920s to meet the growing demand for consumer goods. However,

workers' wages did not rise enough for people to afford to buy all the goods being produced. This led to **surpluses**, falling prices, and eventually, business closures and layoffs.

Another factor was rising consumer debt. The 1920s saw a rise in consumer credit as people bought goods on installment plans. Coupled with an advertisement boom that linked new products to a modern, stylish lifestyle, this created a culture of debt. Many people relied heavily on **credit** to purchase items they couldn't afford. When the economy began to weaken, many people couldn't pay their debts.

Vocabulary

surplus, n. an extra amount, beyond what is needed

credit, n. a promise to pay in the future for goods or services obtained in the present

Risky investing also played a role in the Depression. The stock market boom of the 1920s encouraged many people to buy stocks, often by borrowing money to make the purchase. These investors hoped to make a quick profit. When the market crashed, they lost much of their savings and investments. The banks that had lent them money also suffered huge losses.

The stock market crash of 1929 wiped out billions of dollars in investments. That caused panic and a loss of confidence in the economy. People rushed to banks to withdraw their savings, causing many banks to collapse. Businesses, facing declining sales and unable to borrow money, had to close their doors. Unemployment skyrocketed as millions lost their jobs. Entire fortunes were lost virtually overnight. The Great Depression had begun.

North Carolina, like the rest of the nation, was hit hard by the Depression. The state's economy, heavily reliant on agriculture and manufacturing, suffered. Crop prices fell steeply, leaving farmers struggling to make ends meet. Textile mills and other factories closed their doors, putting thousands out of work. Unemployment reached over 20 percent in North Carolina. Families lost their savings, homes, and livelihoods, and poverty became widespread.



The stock market crash of 1929 triggered a wave of bank runs, as panicked depositors rushed to withdraw their savings.

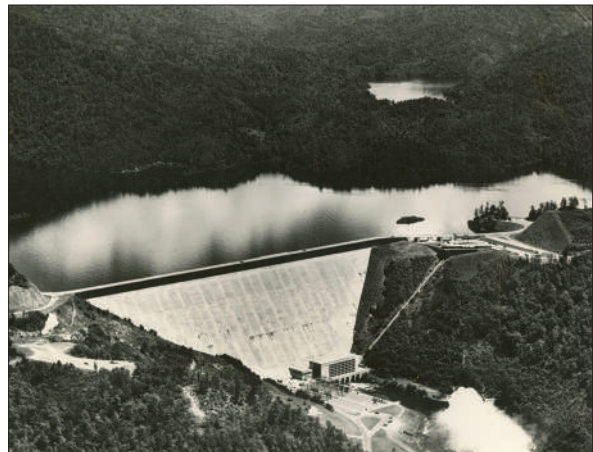
The Depression also impacted North Carolina's society. Communities that had once thrived struggled to survive. People lost their savings, their homes, and their sense of security. The state's social fabric was strained as families and communities faced extraordinary hardship.

In response to this crisis, newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched the New Deal. Its goal was to provide relief, recovery, and reform to the nation. The New Deal was large and ambitious and increased the size and scope of the federal government. It included programs to provide financial assistance to those in need, create jobs, support farmers, and attempt to fix problems in the country's economic institutions.

In North Carolina, the New Deal had a tremendous impact. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was active in

bringing electricity and flood control to western parts of North Carolina. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) hired workers who improved the state's infrastructure. The CCC provided jobs for young men in conservation projects, such as planting trees, building trails, and improving national parks. For example, CCC workers began building the Blue Ridge Parkway. The WPA employed people in a wide range of projects, including construction, education, and the arts. WPA workers built roads, schools, city halls, and courthouses. The Social Security Act established a system of social insurance, providing benefits for the elderly, unemployed, and disabled.

While New Deal programs provided critical relief during the Great Depression, not all North Carolinians benefited equally. African

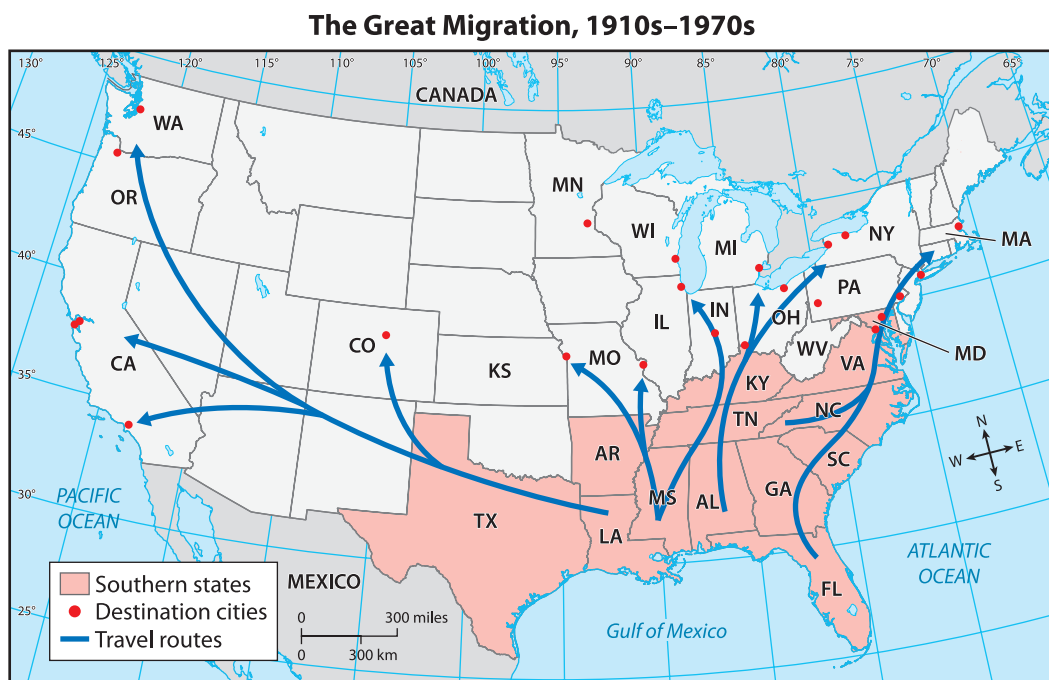


The Blue Ridge Parkway and the Fontana Dam represent a lasting legacy of the New Deal in North Carolina.

Americans and rural communities faced significant barriers, as discrimination was often woven into these federal initiatives. The CCC, for instance, operated as a segregated program that offered African American participants lower wages and fewer advancement opportunities than their white counterparts. This exclusion extended to housing policies that outlasted the Depression itself. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) actively denied loans to African American families seeking homes in certain neighborhoods—a practice known as redlining—while assisting white people in moving to new suburbs through favorable lending programs. Together with

Jim Crow laws, these policies systematically prevented generations of African Americans from building wealth through homeownership.

Over several decades, many African Americans left the South, including North Carolina, seeking better economic opportunities and social conditions. This movement, known as the “Great Migration,” began in the 1910s and continued into the 1970s. In North Carolina, like much of the South, racial discrimination and limited job opportunities pushed many to move to northern and western cities like New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, where



The movement of an estimated six million African Americans from the South to the North and West began in the 1910s and lasted for more than fifty years.

industrial jobs were more available. This migration not only changed the demographics of those cities but also had a lasting cultural and political impact, shaping urban culture and increasing African American political influence.



Think Twice

How did the Great Depression affect different groups in North Carolina? To what degree were New Deal programs effective in addressing the needs of all North Carolinians?



World War II

With the world still reeling from the Great Depression, World War II erupted in 1939. In 1937, Japan invaded China. The U.S. government protested by limiting trade with Japan. It also took control of Japan's investments in the United States. In Europe, Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, invaded country after country. These aggressive actions plunged the world into another devastating conflict. The war quickly spread, with nations across the globe aligning themselves with either the Axis powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan or the Allied powers of Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and eventually the United States.

The United States remained officially neutral at first, but it provided vital support to Allied nations through the Lend-Lease Act of 1941. This program allowed the U.S. to supply military aid, including weapons, vehicles, and other resources, to countries like Britain and the Soviet Union without directly entering the war.

Official neutrality changed in late 1941. That December, the Japanese attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This surprise attack killed more than 2,400 Americans and damaged or destroyed dozens of U.S. naval vessels. It led the United States to declare war on Japan. Germany and Italy, in turn, declared war on the United States. The nation was now forced to fight in both the western and eastern hemispheres.

The war's impact echoed across North Carolina and was felt directly on the Outer Banks. German U-boats stalked the state's coastline, sinking ships and disrupting daily life. Residents felt explosions shake their homes and saw debris washing ashore from torpedoed vessels. The government established an Army radar installation and observation tower in Kitty Hawk, bringing military personnel into the community.

World War II dramatically reshaped the state's economy, society, and culture. The

war effort spurred economic growth, as North Carolina became a major manufacturing center. Textile production increased, with companies expanding operations to meet the demand for military uniforms and supplies. Furniture manufacturing also increased. So did the production of steel, aluminum, and chemicals, creating jobs and attracting workers from within and outside the state.

Wilmington became a wartime boomtown. Before the war, it was a small city with a struggling economy. The Great Depression had hit the

region hard, leaving many unemployed. However, the onset of World War II transformed Wilmington, along with the entire nation. In many ways, the war helped accelerate economic recovery. During the war, Wilmington became a vital shipbuilding center and earned the nickname "The Defense Capital of the State." The North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, established in 1941, became the city's largest employer, with more than twenty-thousand workers at its peak. The shipyard produced 243 cargo ships, which transported essential supplies overseas



The USS *North Carolina*, a World War II battleship, is permanently docked in the Cape Fear River across from Wilmington's historic downtown. During the war, Wilmington became a major shipbuilding center.

to Allied forces. This influx of workers and military personnel led to rapid population growth, straining the city's infrastructure and creating housing shortages. The federal government constructed new housing units and converted empty lots into trailer camps. Wilmington played an important role in the war effort, contributing to Allied victory and laying the foundation for the city's future growth.

With resources devoted to the war effort, food rationing became a necessity on the home front. North Carolinians responded to this challenge by once again planting "victory gardens." These gardens provided families with fresh produce and added to limited food rations, allowing farm crops to be sent to the troops overseas. Victory gardens also created a sense of community and patriotism. Other goods, such as gasoline and paper, were rationed as well. People also turned in scrap metal and tires so they could be recycled and reused.

North Carolina was important to the war effort, with numerous military bases and training facilities established throughout the state. Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune, two of the largest military installations in the country, were expanded to accommodate more troops. Fort Bragg alone grew from 376 buildings to more than 1,500 and trained more than two

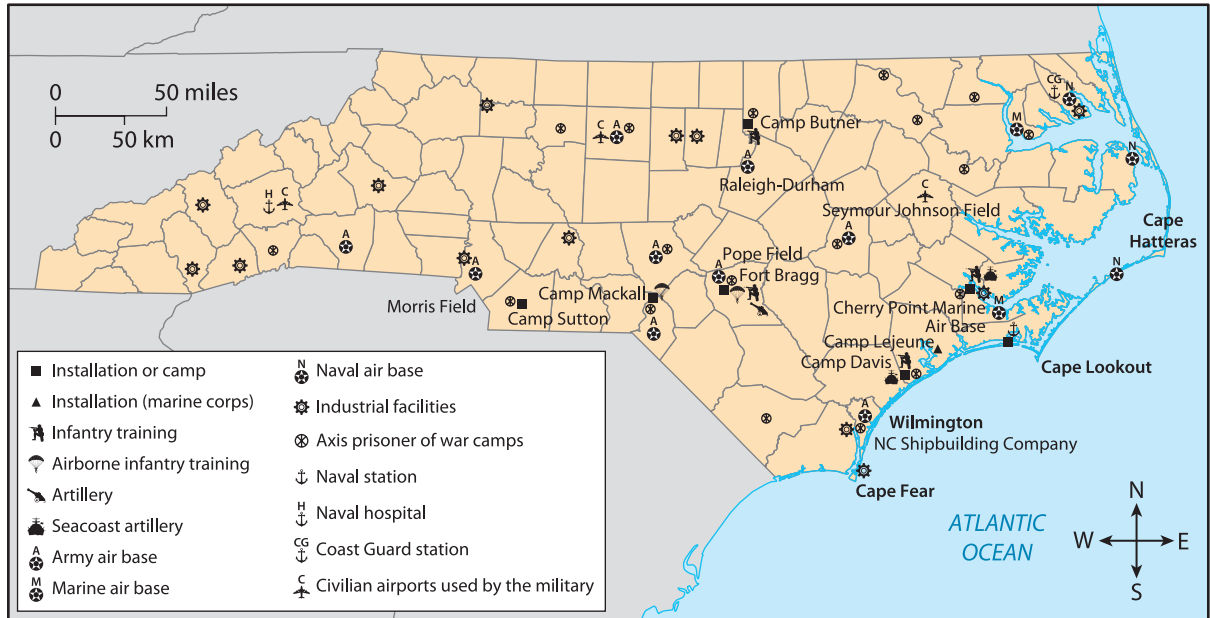
million service members during the war. These bases had a lasting impact on the state's economy and population.

The war also led to significant changes in the state's workforce. With so many men serving in the military, women entered the workforce in greater numbers. They worked in factories, shipyards, and other industries, operating machinery, welding, and managing production lines. This shift challenged traditional gender roles and contributed to the growing involvement of women in the workforce after the war.

About 360,000 North Carolinians served in the military during World War II, including 69,000 African Americans who played a vital role in the war effort. They were forced to serve in segregated units, often facing discrimination and unequal treatment. However, their service during the war helped lay the groundwork for the civil rights movement that would gain strength in the postwar years. Many African American troops, returning home to the same race-based discrimination they had been fighting abroad, were determined to work for equality and justice in their own country.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee contributed to World War II efforts in several ways. Many Cherokee men enlisted in the U.S. military, serving in various branches.

North Carolina in World War II



North Carolina played an important role during World War II, home to many military installations, training camps, and war-related industries.

They also served as Code Talkers, using their Native language to transmit secure communications that the enemy could not translate. Additionally, Cherokee communities supported the war through agricultural production, war bond drives, and labor in wartime industries.

The war accelerated North Carolina's industrialization and urbanization. Cities

like Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh saw rapid growth as people moved from rural areas to find work in wartime industries. The increase in workers led to housing shortages and strained infrastructure, but it also brought new energy to the state's urban centers.



Find Out the Facts

Research to find out how World War II impacted the lives of Native Americans in North Carolina and across the nation.

Writers' Corner

Imagine you are a woman working in a North Carolina factory during World War II. Write a letter to your brother who is serving overseas. Describe your work, the challenges you face, and your hopes for the future.



Chapter 8

The Cold War, Civil Rights, and North Carolina

Big Question

How did North Carolina and the nation change in the decades after World War II?




A New Era

The clatter of silverware and the murmur of conversation filled the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro. Four young men with determined faces sat patiently amid the bustle. It was February 1, 1960—a day to remember.

These four African American university students had taken seats at the “whites-only” counter. While they were not served that day, their peaceful demonstration launched a wave of sit-ins that challenged segregation in North Carolina and throughout the South.





The four students from North Carolina A&T who staged the Woolworth's sit-in were joined in the ensuing days by more and more students, showing the determination of African Americans to end segregation.

North Carolina's Postwar Boom

The end of World War II brought social changes and economic growth to North Carolina. Fueled by consumer demand and technological innovation, the state's economy expanded rapidly. This growth transformed the state's physical landscape and the lives of North Carolinians. The postwar boom, however, was not without its challenges. The state's residents did not share equally in this growth and change.

One of the biggest transformations was the spread of modern technology to rural areas. In 1940, only a quarter of the state's farms had electric power. By 1955, that share had soared to 95 percent. Farm work changed, too. Increased use of new farming equipment and methods boosted farm output. This change came with a cost, as it reduced the demand for farm labor. People began to migrate from rural areas to cities like Charlotte in search of jobs.

The G.I. Bill, passed in 1944, provided aid for schooling and housing to veterans of World War II returning to civilian life. With grants to help pay for tuition, veterans flocked to colleges and universities. The number of people with college degrees increased dramatically. Veterans

could also obtain low-interest loans to purchase homes, fueling the construction of new houses. Cities like Raleigh and Charlotte expanded rapidly. So did the suburbs around them, with new housing developments and shopping centers to meet the needs of the growing middle class. African Americans generally did not take part in this suburban growth, however. Realtors and banks used discriminatory practices to limit housing opportunities for them and other minority groups.

Another change was the creation of the Interstate Highway System by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. This act provided federal money to construct a nationwide network of high-speed, limited-access highways. This massive undertaking was seen as essential for national defense. In North Carolina, it led to the construction of major interstates like I-85 and I-40, connecting North Carolina cities not only to each other but also to the rest of the country. The larger road network connected communities and sped up commerce. It opened new markets for North Carolina's goods and attracted businesses and industries.

The highway system also had broader social effects. It made travel easier for civil rights activists organizing protests and campaigns across state lines.



The expansion of highways like I-40 in North Carolina was fueled by the 1956 Federal-Aid Highway Act.

The improved transportation infrastructure also contributed to the rise of suburbs, as people could now live farther from their workplaces and commute more easily. The effects of this suburbanization contributed to the rise of cities like Raleigh and Charlotte.

Find Out the Facts



Research the impact of the G.I. Bill on North Carolina. How did it affect education, housing, and the economy in the state?

The postwar era also remade American culture. New forms of entertainment and consumer goods became increasingly popular. Radio and television brought news and entertainment into homes. Television, in particular, quickly became a central fixture in American homes, reshaping family life and leisure time. Pop music, rock and roll music, and Hollywood movies influenced Americans' tastes. Soaring demand for consumer goods, from appliances to vinyl records

to automobiles, fueled economic growth and transformed spending habits. Some of this consumer spending was fueled by borrowing, as people increasingly relied on credit to purchase homes and other goods. Still, wages also grew in these years, building a sense of confidence.

The development of Research Triangle Park marked North Carolina's arrival as a center for innovation and technology. The park could more accurately be described as a large research and development campus rather than a traditional recreational park. It was a joint effort between the state's government, universities (the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and Duke University in Durham), and private businesses.

The effort, operated and managed by the nonprofit Research Triangle Foundation, faced some initial challenges. Supporters had to work hard to raise funds. They needed to convince both private investors and lawmakers to give money to a largely untested concept. Beyond funding, they also had to overcome lingering negative attitudes toward the South. At the time, the region was still heavily invested in agriculture and traditional industries, not in scientific research and



Television became one of the main forms of entertainment in the postwar years as families gathered nightly to watch their favorite shows.

technology. Many outside investors and companies hesitated to invest in a region they believed lacked the necessary infrastructure and skilled workforce to support high-tech industries. But the foundation persisted—and succeeded. By 1959, five companies had agreed to locate in the park, and the program’s future was secured. Over time, it attracted leading companies in technology, drugs and medical supplies, and biotechnology. The Research Triangle’s new offices and labs have provided more jobs and spurred economic growth. This has attracted many new people to the area, creating a more diverse population and contributing to the evolution of North Carolina’s economy.



Think Twice

How did the postwar economic boom affect different groups in North Carolina?

The postwar period also saw an increase in the birth rate, known as the “baby boom.” This surge in births was fueled by several factors. “Many returning veterans started families after years of war and economic uncertainty. A sense of optimism encouraged couples to have more children. This population boom had lasting effects. It created increased demand for schools, housing, and consumer goods, stimulating the economy. Furthermore,

the G.I. Bill provided veterans with benefits that supported their families, including low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans to start businesses, and tuition assistance for higher education. All this helped fuel the growth of suburbs, the expansion of universities, and the overall economic boom of the postwar era, as veterans had access to resources that had been unavailable to previous generations.



The Cold War

After World War II, a new conflict emerged that would shape the latter half of the twentieth century: the Cold War. This war was unlike any before it, fought not on traditional battlefields but in the realms of ideas, politics, and technology. A “hot” war involves direct military conflict, with active fighting between opposing forces. A “cold” war, in contrast, is characterized by tension and rivalry, but without large-scale, direct military clashes between the main adversaries. The Cold War was a struggle between two **superpowers**, the United States and the Soviet Union, each championing a vastly different way

Vocabulary

superpower, n. a nation with a dominant position in the world

of life, government, and economy. The United States advocated for democracy and **capitalism**, while the Soviet Union promoted **communism**. Although the Cold War never escalated into a “hot” war between the United States and the Soviet Union, it led to many conflicts around the globe, called proxy wars, in which the two superpowers supported opposing sides.

Vocabulary

capitalism, n. an economic system in which resources and businesses are privately owned and prices are not controlled by the government

communism, n. a political and economic system based on communal ownership of property and industry

Both nations engaged in wide-ranging propaganda campaigns to promote their ideologies and discredit the other’s. The United States highlighted the benefits of democracy and capitalism, while the Soviet Union touted the ideals of communism. Both superpowers built alliances and tried to gain support from neutral nations. The United States joined with Canada and countries in Western Europe to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). These allies pledged to defend one another in case any member was attacked. The Soviet Union responded by forming the Warsaw Pact,

which included itself and communist countries in Eastern Europe. The two sides also spied on each other, trying to gather intelligence and undermine the other’s government and institutions.

In the late 1940s, communists gained control of China, and the Soviet Union was imposing communism on countries in Eastern Europe. The United States responded by adopting a policy of **containment**, aimed at preventing the further spread of Soviet influence. This policy shaped American foreign policy for decades. It led presidents to send U.S. troops to fight against communist takeovers in Korea in the 1950s and Vietnam in the 1960s. Both wars were long, costly, and deadly and involved many North Carolinians. More than 177,000 North Carolinians served in the Korean War, which ended with neither side winning, as the Korean peninsula remained divided into (communist) North Korea and (democratic) South Korea. More than 200,000 served in the Vietnam War, which ended in 1975 when communist

Vocabulary

containment, n. the act or process of keeping something within certain limits, such as stopping the spread of communism during the Cold War

North Vietnam defeated U.S.-backed South Vietnam.

While the two superpowers avoided direct armed conflict with each other, the Cold War had a military component as well. The two nations engaged in an arms race, working to develop more powerful and larger arrays of nuclear weapons. The arms race brought the world dangerously close to the brink of destruction. In 1961, a U.S. B-52 bomber carrying two nuclear bombs experienced a fuel leak and began to break apart mid-air near Goldsboro, North Carolina. One of the bombs nearly exploded, and a portion of it remains buried in the ground to this day. While disaster was avoided, the incident, known as the “Goldsboro Broken Arrow,” brought the fears and perils of nuclear conflict home to the people of North Carolina.

The Cold War also profoundly changed American society. The Soviet Union shocked Americans in 1957 by launching *Sputnik*, the world’s first artificial satellite. This event sparked what became known as the “space race”—as the two superpowers competed in exploring outer space, both thought that their success would show that their country was superior. This race produced a renewed emphasis on science and math education in the United States. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged



This nuclear bomb was one of two that fell from a U.S. bomber and broke apart mid-air over Goldsboro, North Carolina, in 1961. Fortunately, neither bomb exploded.

the nation to land a man on the moon before the end of the decade. That goal was achieved with the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. This remarkable accomplishment captured the world’s imagination.

The space race had a lasting impact. Technology developed during the space race—particularly computers—would soon find its way into businesses and homes.

In North Carolina, the space race and Cold War led to increased funding for science programs and a focus on science and math in schools and universities.

The state also contributed to advances in technology. Research Triangle Park, in particular, emerged as a hub for research



John F. Kennedy campaigned for president in North Carolina in 1960. Once elected, Kennedy called for Americans to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade.

and development in fields like space exploration and electronics.

The U.S. military expanded its presence in North Carolina during the Cold War. Major military bases and installations such as Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and Camp Lejeune all became increasingly important for national defense.

Another way the Cold War impacted North Carolina was through immigration. The end of the Vietnam War led to a wave of immigration to the state. The Montagnards, an Indigenous group who had long lived in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, had been allies of the United

States during the war. Following the fall of South Vietnam in 1975, many Montagnards faced persecution. They sought refuge in the United States. The U.S. government resettled many of them in North Carolina. These refugees formed vibrant communities and contributed to the state's cultural diversity. Over the years, thousands of Montagnards settled in cities like Greensboro, Charlotte, and Raleigh.

Think Twice



How did the Cold War shape North Carolina's economy and contribute to the state's development and diversification?



The Civil Rights Movement

The civil rights movement, a long struggle for racial equality and justice, gained strength in the postwar era. African Americans launched new efforts to challenge Jim Crow laws and demanded equal rights and opportunities. In North Carolina, the movement took many forms, from legal challenges to protests to direct action.

The civil rights movement aimed to end the widespread discrimination against African Americans, especially in the South.

African Americans, despite having been granted citizenship and voting rights after the Civil War, faced unequal treatment in nearly every aspect of life. This system of oppression was rooted in both societal attitudes and laws. It was built on segregation and barriers to African American voting, which helped preserve white political and social control.

Across the South, similar measures forced African Americans into separate schools, train cars, restaurants, theaters, and other public spaces. Literacy tests and poll taxes kept many African Americans from voting, preventing them from changing the laws or electing officials who might represent their interests.

The civil rights movement in North Carolina was deeply connected to the national movement. Protests against segregation and discrimination in the state dated back to the 1930s. These early efforts laid the groundwork for the larger movement that arose in the 1950s.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregation in public schools violated the U.S. Constitution. It also called for governments to move “with all deliberate speed” to desegregate the schools. This vague wording allowed for resistance and delays. Many Southern states, like North

Carolina, worked against integration rather than following the court’s ruling.

One of the most significant events in North Carolina’s civil rights movement was the 1960 Greensboro sit-in. Four North Carolina A&T State University students staged a sit-in at a Woolworth’s lunch counter, sparking a wave of similar protests across the South. Woolworth’s was a chain of retail stores with thousands of outlets around the country. It was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement.

This nonviolent demonstration challenged segregation and increased the momentum and visibility of the struggle for racial equality. It inspired similar Southern protests and helped raise national awareness for the civil rights movement. Losing money and facing public pressure, the Greensboro Woolworth’s finally lifted its segregation policy on July 25, 1960, and began serving African American and white customers at the same counter. This change demonstrated that nonviolent protest could help challenge segregation.



Students in Charlotte “sit-in” at the segregated lunch counter in the uptown Woolworth’s department store in February 1960.

Writers’ Corner



Imagine you are a student participating in the Greensboro sit-in. Write a diary entry describing your experiences, your motivations, and your hopes for the future.

In 1960, Ella Baker formed a new group called the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Baker recruited students at Raleigh’s Shaw University. The group gained followers on other campuses as well. It carried out many important actions promoting equal rights. Raleigh college

students were part of a diverse group of protesters, including African Americans and white allies, who marched in the city in 1963. Despite their peaceful conduct, many marchers were arrested. Many Southern leaders resisted changes that would weaken segregation and white political power.

The 1966 visit of Martin Luther King Jr. to Raleigh was an important moment in the city’s civil rights movement. On July 31, King delivered a speech to a crowd of five thousand people at Reynolds Coliseum, calling for racial equality and civil rights. The event was opposed by the

Ku Klux Klan, which held a rally nearby to protest the end of segregation. This contrast showed the deep-seated racial tensions that still existed in the state in the mid-1960s. Still, King's visit had a lasting impact on Raleigh. It contributed to ongoing efforts to desegregate public facilities and institutions, and it inspired others to become active in the fight for civil rights.

Dr. Reginald Hawkins was another key leader in the civil rights movement in North Carolina. Hawkins, a minister and activist, played a crucial role in organizing protests, working for voting rights, and attempting to desegregate North Carolina's public institutions, including schools. Dr. Reginald Hawkins's work in North Carolina was part of a larger wave of

activism during the civil rights movement, which also saw efforts to challenge segregation beyond local protests. One notable example of this type of activism became known as the Freedom Rides.

The Freedom Rides were a series of protests in 1961 when African American and white activists rode interstate buses through the South to challenge segregated bus terminals. The Supreme Court had already prohibited segregated services when it came to interstate buses and trains. The riders traveled through North Carolina without encountering the violence they later faced in Georgia and Alabama, where they were beaten severely and arrested. Their actions helped desegregate interstate travel.



Dr. King speaks in Raleigh in 1958, laying the groundwork for his 1966 speech there.

New national laws marked major victories for the movement. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It prohibited segregation in public places, including schools, restaurants, and hotels. It also banned discrimination in hiring, promoting, and paying workers. This act affected North Carolina by desegregating public spaces and opening new workplace protections.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed to overcome state and local laws that prevented African Americans from voting. It outlawed poll taxes in state and local elections and literacy tests. Finally, it gave the federal government power to oversee voter registration in areas with a history of discrimination. This act transformed North Carolina politics, leading to major increases in African American voter registration and participation. It also led to the election of African Americans to government offices in numbers not seen since the Reconstruction era.

The *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* case, decided by the Supreme Court in 1971, upheld the use of busing to achieve racial desegregation in public schools. The case began in 1965 when parents sued the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district to challenge segregated

schools. This decision affected school districts across the country, leading to increased court-ordered busing and integration efforts. However, it also faced resistance, particularly in the South.



Economic and Social Changes in the 1960s and 1970s

The 1960s and 1970s saw continued social and economic changes for North Carolina. These changes were driven by several factors.

During this period, the state's population changed in several ways. First, it saw a major migration of people from rural areas to cities. There was also an increase in the number of Hispanic people living in North Carolina. This influx led to changes in the state's culture as different communities interacted.

The shift from an agricultural to a mixed economy further contributed to population changes. The growing reliance on new and more efficient farm technology, which had begun after World War II, continued. As a result, more and more people left rural areas of the state for its cities.

During this period, North Carolina continued its rise as a major banking hub. Building on a foundation established in the early 1900s, the state's banking industry experienced growth in the 1960s and 1970s. This growth was fueled by favorable state laws, a skilled workforce, and a growing economy. Banks like Wachovia (later acquired by Wells Fargo) and the North Carolina National Bank (now part of Bank of America) expanded their operations in the state. Their growth strengthened North Carolina's position as a leader in the nation's finance industry.

The 1970s also saw continued conflict over civil rights. The Wilmington Ten were nine young men and one woman wrongfully convicted in 1971 for arson and conspiracy during a protest for school desegregation in Wilmington. The city was deeply divided along racial lines. While the city's schools were desegregated, that action was met by protests from some white people. A firebombing incident at a grocery store in 1971 sparked a riot and led to the arrest of ten African Americans. Their trial was marred by the use of disputed evidence and coerced testimony. Despite these issues, the ten were convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms. Their convictions were overturned in 1980, and



The Bank of America building rises above other structures in downtown Charlotte, symbolizing the importance of banking to the city.

they all received full pardons in 2012. A full pardon meant that the state officially acknowledged that the convictions were unjust and restored their full civil rights.

Another sign of continuing racial tension and violence appeared in Greensboro in 1979, during what became known as the Greensboro Massacre. On November 3, five activists, including members of the Communist Workers Party, were killed when members of the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party opened fire on

a peaceful protest march. The marchers were demonstrating against racism and advocating for workers' rights when attackers drove into the crowd and began shooting. Although members of white supremacist groups were involved, in 1980, a jury found the accused shooters not guilty, citing a lack of evidence connecting them to the crime. The verdict sparked widespread outrage and further highlighted the deep divisions in American society. In 1983, three years later, a second trial led to the acquittal of nine more individuals linked to the attack, deepening the sense of injustice felt by the victims' families and the broader community.

The civil rights movement inspired other groups to fight for change and reignited other movements as well. Women began challenging traditional gender roles and demanding equality in jobs, pay, education, and other areas. Women's access to higher education grew dramatically, with the University of North Carolina system experiencing a surge in female enrollment. Women also broke barriers by entering traditionally male-dominated fields like law, medicine, and engineering.

This newfound expanded access to educational and professional

opportunities translated into increased participation in the workforce and politics. Women sought equal pay for equal work, leading to the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and further federal anti-discrimination legislation in 1968. Inspired by works like Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, women challenged the notion that their roles should be confined to the domestic sphere. The fight for legal equality gained momentum with the push for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Although thirty-eight states eventually ratified the proposed amendment, it was never added to the Constitution. Even so, the campaign for it energized many women. That effort also highlighted the need for constitutional protections. North Carolina saw the rise of influential female politicians like Ruth Samuelson, elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives, and Susie Sharp, the first female chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. These trailblazers helped pave the way for future generations of women in leadership roles.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Lumbee people joined the push for civil rights and recognition. The Lumbee, the largest Native American tribe east of the Mississippi River, have a long history in North Carolina. The Lumbee



The debate over the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) energized protest and activism around the country but was never codified into law.

actively challenged discrimination and advocated for their rights. They organized protests, filed lawsuits, and lobbied for legislative changes to address education, health care, and economic opportunities. As a result, North Carolina expanded funding for Lumbee schools and educational programs, community health centers were established, and the tribe's political representation increased. The Lumbee

push for recognition and equality was part of the broader civil rights movement in North Carolina. That push was finally rewarded in 2025, when the tribe gained federal recognition.

Find Out the Facts



Research the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. What are some unique aspects of Lumbee culture and traditions, and what challenges has the tribe faced?

North Carolina also experienced political changes in the 1970s, with the state's first presidential **primary** held in 1972. Prior to this, the state's Democratic Party used a **caucus** system to select delegates for

Vocabulary

primary, n. a preliminary election to appoint delegates to a party conference or to select the candidates for an election

caucus, n. a meeting of members of a political party or movement to select candidates, plan strategy, or make decisions about policy

the national convention. The primary system allowed voters to select their preferred presidential candidate, giving them a greater voice in the process. The 1972 primary also showed the changing political makeup of the state. Once a stronghold of the Democratic Party, North Carolina had a growing Republican presence. This shift was part of a larger change across the South in which many conservative voters increasingly supported Republican candidates and policies.

Chapter 9

North Carolina at the End of the Twentieth Century

Big Question

How did events of the late twentieth century affect North Carolina?



The End of an Era

After more than a hundred years, the factory whistle, a sound that had echoed for generations, fell silent. In the heart of North Carolina, a town faced a stark new reality. The White Furniture Factory had closed. For many decades, it had provided jobs, supported families, and helped form the town's identity. Now, a sense of loss and uncertainty hung heavy in the air.





The closure of many of North Carolina's furniture factories, like this one in Lenoir, forced people and communities to adapt to a changing economic landscape.

White Furniture Factory had opened in the 1880s in Mebane, North Carolina, and was the largest business in that town. It closed in 1993. Robert Riley, a longtime employee, recalled how he felt hearing the news. "It was a real shocker to me because I had been there so long and I planned to retire there," he said. The closing affected more than just White's workers. It rippled through the community. Store owners saw their sales drop as workers no longer had wages to spend. The mood of the town was worried.

The closing of White Furniture mirrored larger shifts in the state and national economy. The Cold War would soon end, **globalization** was accelerating, and the 1990s ushered in a new era of technology and service industries. Traditional manufacturing towns like Mebane faced uncertainty as the economy changed.

Vocabulary

globalization, n. the state of a worldwide economy that includes free trade and using inexpensive labor markets in other countries

The End of the Cold War

By the late 1980s, the Cold War was winding down and finally came to an end with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Americans were relieved by the easing of long-held fears of nuclear war. Many credited U.S. policies under President Ronald Reagan with helping to bring about the end of the Cold War, while historians also point to economic and political pressures within the Soviet Union.

The end of the Cold War changed the United States and North Carolina. The United States became the world's sole superpower. The nation's military strategy shifted, and Congress closed many military bases across the country. However, North Carolina's Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base remained essential to the army and the air force. Camp Lejeune continued to be the U.S. Marines' major training center.

These bases not only played ongoing roles in the nation's defense. They also contributed to the economies of nearby communities. Thousands of civilians living near the bases worked on them. Military personnel and townspeople often enjoyed close relations as well.

Think Twice



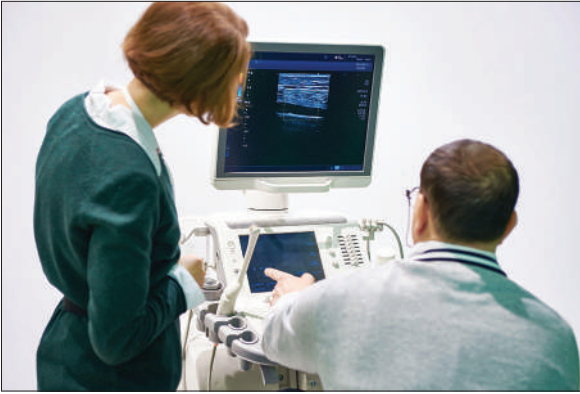
How did the end of the Cold War affect the country and North Carolina?

North Carolina in the Late 1900s

Research Triangle Park (RTP) continued to drive change and economic growth in the 1980s and 1990s in North Carolina. The park provided space for companies to open labs and offices where researchers could work together. It also offered access to skilled workers graduating from the universities associated with it. Increased spending on research and technology continued to **diversify** the state's economy. RTP is credited with several discoveries that changed people's lives in the twentieth century and beyond. They include the Universal Product Code, or bar code, used on product packages and 3D ultrasound technology used by doctors to scan patients' organs.

Vocabulary

diversify, v. to make a company or country more varied in its economic activities



Breakthroughs made at RTP, such as the development of 3D ultrasound technology, transformed medical imaging and improved health care worldwide.

At the same time, the city of Charlotte continued its evolution into a financial center. **Consolidation** helped Charlotte's banking industry thrive. Many banks and financial institutions merged during this time, creating larger, more powerful companies. Charlotte became an attractive location for these larger banks to establish their headquarters for three reasons. It had a banking tradition, a good location in the booming Southeast, and a "state laws that supported bank expansion. In addition, this was a period of banking **deregulation**. Federal laws were relaxed, allowing banks to operate

Vocabulary

consolidation, n. the process of combining things, such as businesses or institutions

deregulation, n. the process of reducing regulations or restrictions

across state lines. This new policy led to increased competition and innovation in the industry. Charlotte grew rapidly during this period, its population swelling from approximately 353,000 in 1980 to around 730,000 by 1999. The city's strong financial sector attracted insurance companies and consulting firms.

Traditional state industries like textiles and furniture—centered in places like High Point, long known as the 'Furniture Capital of the World'—faced challenges due to globalization and overseas competition. The textile and furniture industries saw a combined loss of about a hundred thousand jobs in the state from 1975 to 1995. This decline was a painful reality for many North Carolinians. Workers who had expected to spend their working lives with one employer felt sorrow, lost a sense of community, and had to find new types of work. The state government, often in partnership with federal programs and community colleges, started job retraining programs to help workers gain new skills required for growing industries. The goal was to help them adapt to the changing job market and find new jobs.

The state did have several new industries emerging as drivers of economic growth. Biotechnology, information technology, and health care became increasingly

important in North Carolina. Biotechnology is the use of living organisms to develop new technologies and products, often in the fields of medicine, agriculture, and environmental science. By 2005, North Carolina was home to more than eighty biotechnology firms. They added billions of dollars to the state's economy and employed tens of thousands of workers. At the same time, North Carolina became a major player in high-tech fields, with tens of thousands employed in information technology. Key strengths were in semiconductors, hardware, and software. These new industries provided new opportunities. The state's fortunate location—in the South but close to the North—and its transportation network allowed companies to reach markets around the country.



Think Twice

How did the economy of North Carolina change in the late 1900s?

Women and African Americans played important roles in shaping the state's workforce and economy. While women still tended to work in lower-paying service jobs, many were breaking barriers. In 1990, about a quarter of the state's working women held jobs as managers and professionals. By 1995, women made

up more than 57 percent of the student body of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Still, the average working woman's income was less than 72 percent of what the average working man earned. African Americans saw some gains as well. Ten of the nation's largest African American-owned businesses were based in North Carolina.

Democratic Governor Jim Hunt made early education a major policy focus. He created the Smart Start program to improve access to early childhood education. Hunt served an unprecedented four terms as governor, from 1977 to 1985 and 1993 to 2001. During his time in office, the state constitution was amended to allow governors to run for reelection and to veto legislation. Until that vote, North Carolina



Governor Jim Hunt, seen here with General Richard E. Hawley at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, served four terms during a period of political and economic change in North Carolina.

was the only state that did not give governors this power.

Although Hunt was a Democrat, the political landscape of North Carolina nevertheless continued to shift toward the Republican Party. This change was illustrated by figures like Jesse Helms, a conservative senator who switched from the Democratic to the Republican Party in 1970 due to his opposition to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Helms gained the nickname “Senator No” for his willingness to fight hard against plans he opposed. Helms served in the Senate for thirty years and was known for being strongly conservative on social issues, arguing against federal civil rights laws. Throughout his career, Helms was associated with what was known as the Moral Majority, a movement that focused on social issues and supported traditional values.



Migration and Diversity

During the late twentieth century, North Carolina experienced major population growth, driven by job and educational opportunities in major cities like Raleigh, Charlotte, and Greensboro. Spurring this growth was the migration of people from

other states and countries. By 2000, about 40 percent of North Carolina’s people had been born outside the state. Interestingly, some of these new arrivals were African Americans. By the 1990s, the Great Migration of African Americans from the South to the North and West was reversing. North Carolina was one of the states that saw the greatest gains in the migration of African Americans from out of state. The influx of people led to a more diverse population and culture.

Hispanic immigrants, drawn by economic opportunities in industries such as construction and agriculture, began to enter North Carolina in growing numbers. Hispanic-owned businesses in Charlotte introduced a Latin American Festival to celebrate Hispanic culture. Asian immigrants also made significant contributions, establishing restaurants, grocery stores, and technology firms. They came from a variety of countries, including India, China, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

The late 1900s saw continued urban growth in North Carolina. This growth resulted from the ongoing movement of people from the state’s rural areas to cities as well as the rising numbers of people moving in from other states.



Hispanic immigrants brought new cultural traditions, foods, businesses, and labor to North Carolina.

North Carolina's population has evolved over time. In its colonial days, the state population was primarily British settlers and enslaved Africans. By the year 2000, the state had become very diverse. African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Latinos accounted for three of every ten people in the state. Groups such as the Highland Scots and Moravians who came in the 1700s and the Latinos and Asians who came in the late 1900s

contributed to the state's cultural diversity. By 2000, North Carolina had become a **multicultural** state.

Vocabulary

multicultural, adj. including many different cultures

Find Out the Facts



Explore the contributions of a specific immigrant group to the cultural and economic development of North Carolina.

Civil Rights and Social Reforms

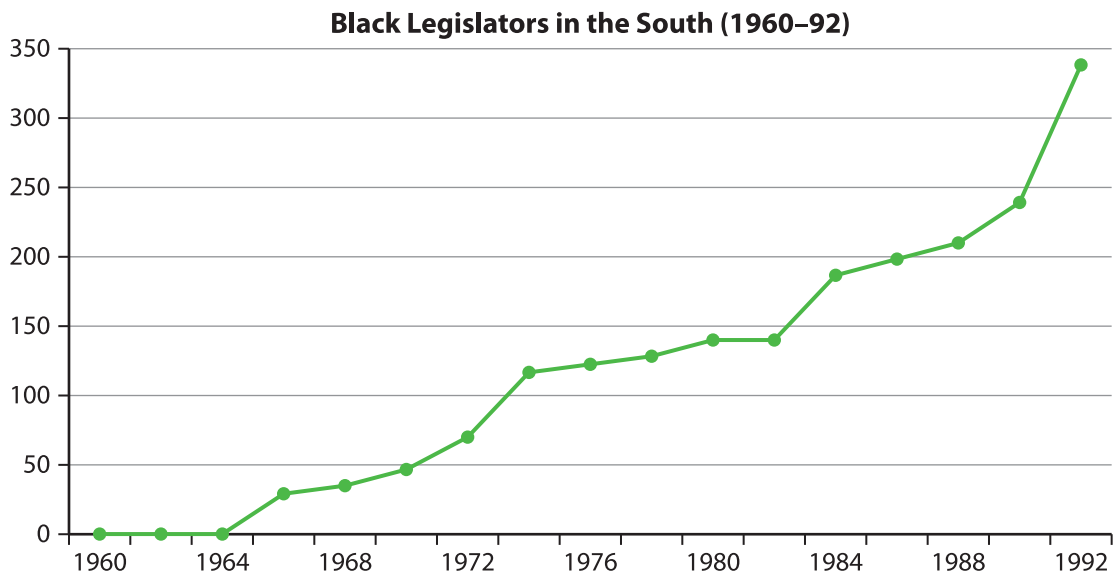
The late 1900s saw both progress and continued struggles in the fight for civil rights and equality in North Carolina. While legislation had been passed in earlier decades, the promise offered by those laws was not always realized. Continued discrimination against many North Carolinians showed the ongoing need for reform.

The fight for racial equality remained a central issue. Grassroots movements and organizations like the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) continued to advocate for equal rights and opportunities for African

Americans. These groups challenged discrimination in housing, employment, and education. They used legal challenges, protests, and community organizing to push for change. The thirtieth anniversary of the Greensboro sit-ins in 1990 was a powerful reminder of the tremendous progress made and the work still to be done. Events celebrated the courage of the original protesters and included new calls for racial equality.

The voting rights victories of the 1960s, which dated back to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, changed the makeup of the state's leadership over time and made North Carolina's elected leadership more reflective of the state's population.

Several African Americans gained important offices in the state as a result. In 1999, Henry Frye capped a career of firsts when he was named as the first African American chief justice of the state Supreme Court. Howard Lee, who first rose to political success as mayor of Chapel Hill, became North Carolina's first African American cabinet secretary. In the 1990s, North Carolina sent two African Americans to the U.S. Congress, electing both Melvin Watt and Eva M. Clayton to multiple terms. This period also saw growth in the number of people in minority groups who registered to vote and voted.



The Voting Rights Act of 1965 contributed to increased African American representation in Southern legislatures.

The federal government led an important reform in this period. Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, prohibiting discrimination based on disability. This law aimed to ensure that people with disabilities had equal opportunities in many aspects of life. These areas included employment, public spaces, transportation, government services, and telecommunications. The ADA transformed the lives of millions.



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 mandated accessibility in public spaces, including features like reserved parking spaces with access aisles.

A key feature of the law required that buildings, workplaces, and public spaces be made accessible, or available to people with physical disabilities.

Find Out the Facts



Research the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on North Carolina.

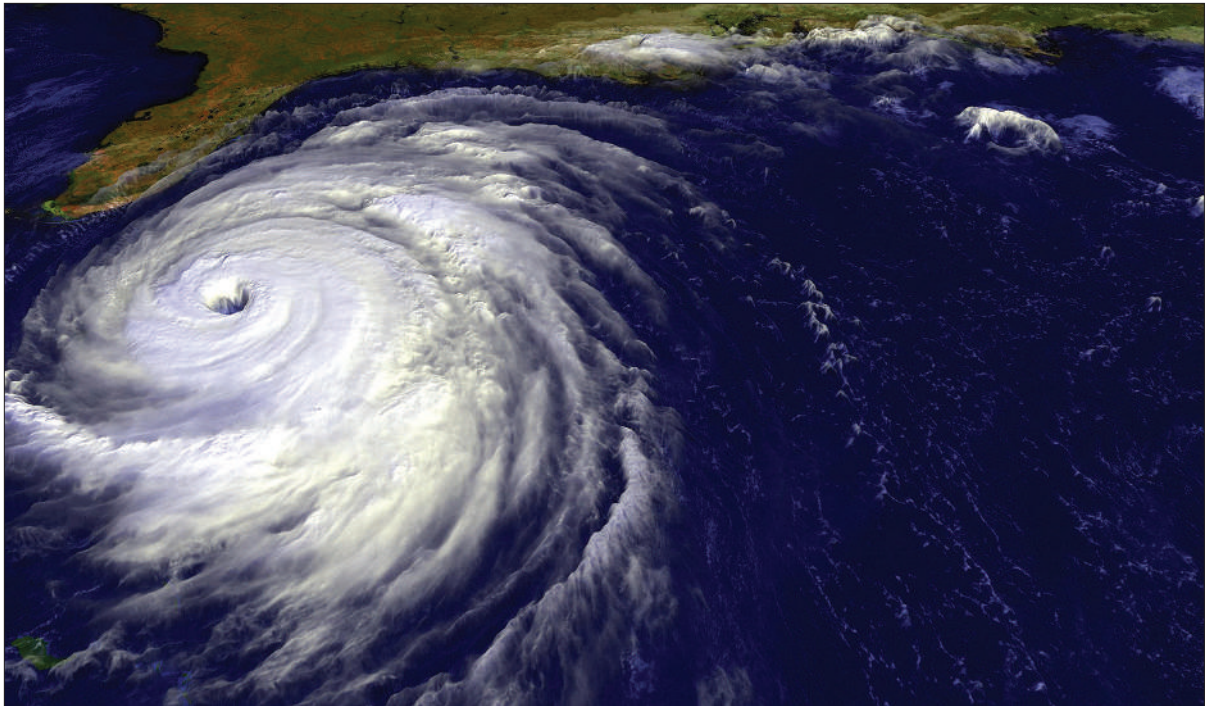
North Carolina launched its own reform efforts, too. Beverly Perdue, a Democrat who became North Carolina's first female governor, became a well-known figure in state politics throughout the 1990s. She worked for better education and health care. She led efforts to raise teacher salaries, improve schools, and increase children's access to health care.



Hurricane Floyd

In September 1999, Hurricane Floyd slammed into North Carolina. It became one of the most destructive natural disasters in the state's history. While the entire state felt the storm's impact, eastern North Carolina bore the brunt of its impact.

Hurricane Floyd's heavy rains exceeded twenty inches (50.8 cm) in some areas and



Satellite imagery of Hurricane Floyd shows the storm's massive size and intensity as it approached the North Carolina coast in September 1999.

caused terrible flooding. The Tar and Neuse Rivers, along with many smaller rivers and streams, spilled over their banks. The water was too much for drains and ditches to handle, leaving large parts of the state underwater. Both cities and rural areas were hit hard. Farms drowned under the floodwaters, which ruined crops and killed animals. In towns, homes and businesses filled with water, forcing thousands of people to leave. Roads and bridges were destroyed or badly damaged, cutting off communities and making rescues difficult. The flooding hurt the economy badly. Many businesses had to shut down,

costing people their jobs. Farmers lost huge amounts of money. Even after the water receded, broken roads and bridges caused delays for months until they could be fixed.

One of the most heartbreaking stories of Hurricane Floyd was the near-total destruction of Princeville, located in Edgecombe County in eastern North Carolina. Founded after the Civil War, Princeville was one of the oldest towns in the United States founded by formerly enslaved African Americans. It held historical and cultural importance. The floodwaters completely submerged the town, damaging or destroying homes,

businesses, and historic landmarks. The destruction of Princeville showed how natural disasters can especially harm communities with limited resources.

The scale of the disaster required a massive response at all levels of government. The state created the Hurricane Floyd Redevelopment Center to provide relief. FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) provided disaster relief, including temporary housing, financial aid, and resources for rebuilding. The National

Guard was called to duty to assist with rescue operations, provide security, and distribute supplies. Governor Jim Hunt created the North Carolina Hurricane Floyd Relief Fund.

Hurricane Floyd taught harsh but important lessons about disasters. People needed to be prepared for these events. Also, they needed resilience to get through them and bounce back. The experience led to improved hurricane preparedness and improved infrastructure. North Carolina



The aftermath of Hurricane Floyd left widespread devastation across North Carolina. Residents and emergency responders worked together to begin the long process of recovery.

strengthened its emergency response plans, invested in better systems for flood warnings, and stressed the need for individuals and communities to be prepared. Efforts were made to rebuild infrastructure to be more resilient, considering the potential for future flooding. The devastation of Princeville

highlighted the need for specific planning and resources to protect vulnerable communities.

Think Twice



What responsibilities should federal, state, and local governments have regarding natural disasters?

Chapter 10

The Challenges of a New Millennium

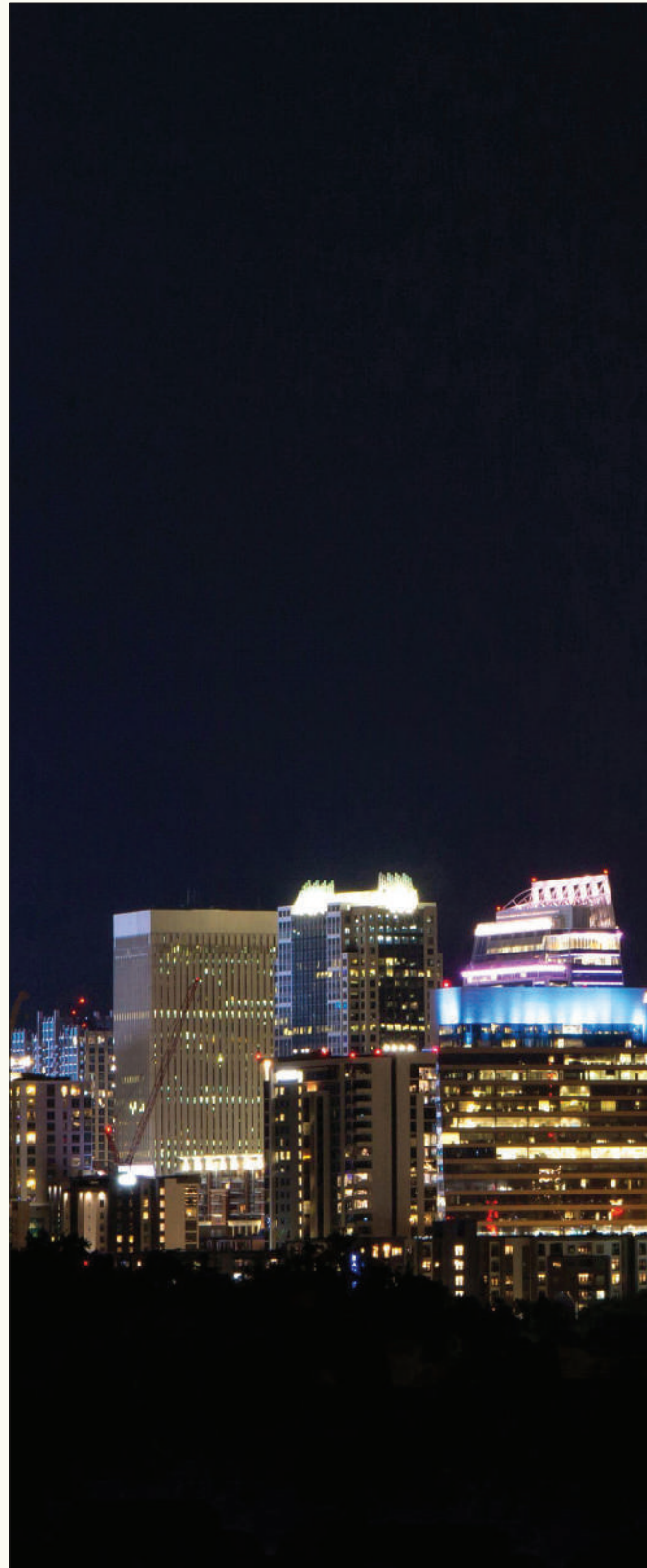
Big Question


What changes and challenges face North Carolina in the twenty-first century?



A New Millennium Arrives

The year 2000 marked not just a new century, but a new millennium, a period of one thousand years. Across North Carolina and the nation, people gathered, reflected, and reveled. Cities like Charlotte marked the occasion with spectacular fireworks displays. As people celebrated, they also looked to the future with hope and uncertainty. The new millennium prompted questions about what lay ahead for North Carolina and its people.



A large, multi-colored firework (red, orange, yellow, green, and blue) is exploding in the night sky. Below it, the city skyline of Charlotte is visible, with several tall buildings illuminated with lights. The sky is dark, and the city lights provide a bright contrast.

Just as the people of Charlotte enjoyed this 2020 fireworks display, they welcomed the new millennium with fireworks at midnight on January 1, 2000.



The Early 2000s

Over the next two and a half decades, the hopes that people held on New Year's Day 2000 were shaken several times. On September 11, 2001, nineteen terrorists affiliated with an organization known as al-Qaeda attacked the United States by hijacking passenger jets and flying them into buildings in New York City and outside Washington, D.C. These attacks shocked the nation and plunged it into a global war on terrorism that lasted nearly twenty years and cost thousands of lives. Many North Carolinians joined the armed forces to serve. At home, military bases like Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune increased security and readiness. Soldiers, sailors, Marines, and members of the Air Force from North Carolina took part in the fighting as well.

Later, in 2008, an economic crisis hit. Parts of the nation's financial system collapsed. This collapse was triggered by many factors, including risky lending and borrowing practices, especially in the housing market, and a bursting of the housing bubble in which home prices had risen to unsustainable levels. The collapse led to what became known as the Great Recession. Banks and insurance

companies failed, many businesses closed, and millions lost their jobs and their homes. More than 10 percent of North Carolina workers lost their jobs. Rural areas that had already been weakened by the decline of traditional industries like textiles and furniture manufacturing were hit particularly hard, as were remaining mining and manufacturing companies. Unemployment rates in rural counties in the western and northeastern parts of the state were higher than the state average. Charlotte, a banking industry center, also experienced significant job losses and financial instability, although its more diversified economy ultimately proved more resilient than many rural areas.

It took nearly a decade for the economy to recover, but finally it did. Then, in early 2020, the COVID-19 **pandemic** struck. This respiratory illness was a new strain that spread very rapidly and could cause severe illness and even death. From 2020 to 2023, the nation had more than 103 million cases of the disease. More than 1.1 million people died in that time. More

than 30,000 died in North Carolina. Many who contracted the disease were left with lifelong health problems. The spread of COVID-19 eventually slowed, but it caused problems beyond sickening people. The pandemic disrupted the economy of the country and the state.

First, governments issued public health restrictions to slow the spread of the disease. These measures meant that many businesses, schools, and public places were temporarily closed, and people were urged to stay home as much as possible. This had a major impact on daily life, leading many to work from home, learn remotely, and limit social interactions. Economically, these restrictions were associated with job losses, business closures, and a decrease in consumer spending. As a result, millions lost their jobs.

Later, as the economy recovered, inflation rose. This happened, in part, because the pandemic and shutdowns disrupted global supply chains. Factories around the world were temporarily closed, shipping was delayed, and there were shortages of many goods. Families struggled to make ends meet as the price of food, clothing, housing, and gasoline all rose. These supply chain problems, combined with increased demand as people began spending again, caused prices to rise sharply,

Vocabulary

pandemic, n. an outbreak of rapidly spreading disease that affects many people around the world at the same time

creating a period of significant inflation that lasted for several years.



A Changing Population

Against this backdrop of change and crises, North Carolina continued to grow and diversify at a rapid pace. Cities like Charlotte and Raleigh became magnets for people seeking jobs in finance, technology, and health care. This growth brought people to the state with new ideas, skills, and traditions.

This period also saw the growth of the state's **metropolitan** areas. Between 2010 and 2020, Wake County, home to Raleigh, and Mecklenburg County, home to Charlotte, accounted for 41 percent of North Carolina's population growth. And this trend continued. From 2022 to 2023, the Charlotte region, a fifteen-county area that includes Mecklenburg, was growing by an average of 117 new people every day.

Vocabulary

metropolitan, adj. relating to a large city and its surrounding suburbs

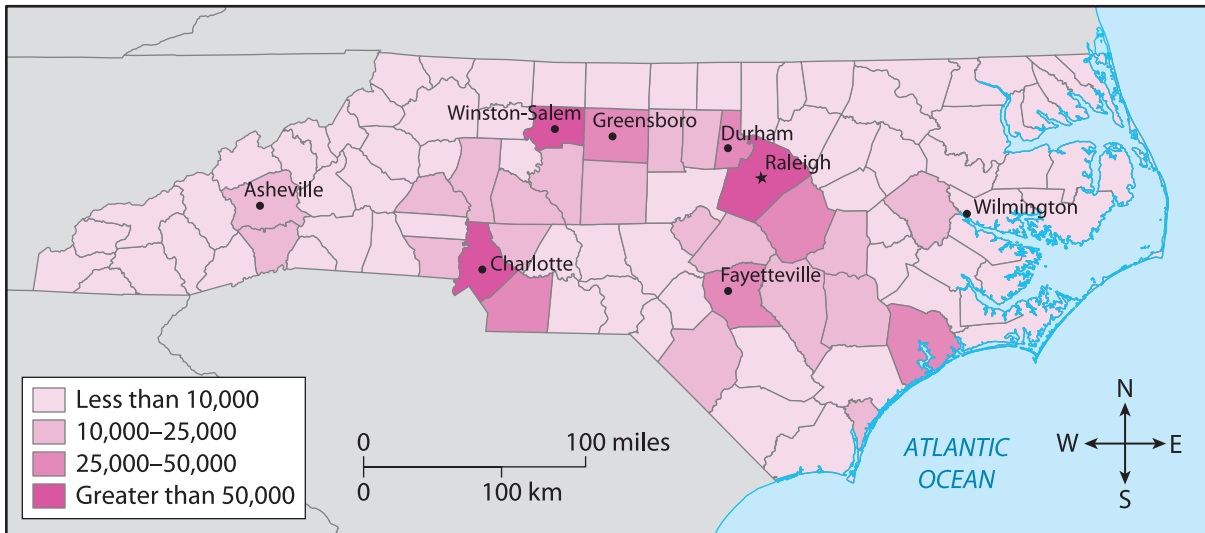
Charlotte cemented its position as a major banking center, despite experiencing significant challenges

during the 2008 financial crisis. This population growth led to increased construction, new housing, restaurants, and entertainment options, as well as increased population density and more traffic.

In the early 2000s, North Carolina became home to a growing number of immigrants. Most of them came from Latin America and Asia. By 2020, more than 8 percent of North Carolinians had been born in another country. The Hispanic population, the largest growing demographic group, reached more than a million people by 2021, with populations originating from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. Hispanics formed about half of all immigrants in the state. Asian Americans made up more than 3 percent, with communities tracing their origins to countries like India, China, Vietnam, and Korea.

More than 40 percent of the state's immigrant population have become naturalized citizens. Among all immigrants twenty-five years or older, more than a third have a college or graduate degree. Many work in construction, health care and education, and manufacturing. Those with more advanced levels of education often hold professional and management jobs. These new residents

Hispanic Population by County, 2019



Source: 2020 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

The three counties with the highest percentages of people with Hispanic or Latino descent are Wake (containing Raleigh), Mecklenburg (containing Charlotte), and Forsyth (containing Winston-Salem).

have also contributed to the state's rich and varied culture. Their stamp can be seen in new restaurants, festivals, and traditions popping up mainly in cities. Examples include the annual Latin American Festival and Hola Charlotte Festival in Charlotte, celebrating Hispanic heritage with music, dance, food, and art. Diwali celebrations (the Hindu Festival of Lights) held by the growing Indian community are prevalent in the Research Triangle and Charlotte areas. Lunar New Year festivities are organized by Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean communities across the state.

While urban areas boomed, many rural communities faced economic hardship.

The decline of traditional industries like textiles and furniture continued. Factory closings meant job losses. Many rural people, finding fewer opportunities and facing an uncertain economic outlook in their home communities, moved to cities to find work. This trend was particularly pronounced in the western and northeastern parts of the state, which had historically relied heavily on manufacturing and agriculture. Experts predict that the population loss in rural areas will continue. Over the next twenty-five years, more than half the state's counties will have smaller populations than they had in 2021.



The entrance (left) of the Koka Booth Chinese Lantern Festival in Cary, North Carolina, and an art display of two ornamental black bears (right) highlight how immigrants continue to contribute to North Carolina's vibrant culture.



Think Twice

Consider a rural county and an urban county in North Carolina. How would a resident of each answer differently to what challenges face the state in the 2000s?

Economic Shifts and New Industries

North Carolina's economy continued to transform in the early 2000s. As noted, some traditional industries declined. At the same time, new ones emerged. These changes created both opportunities and challenges for workers.

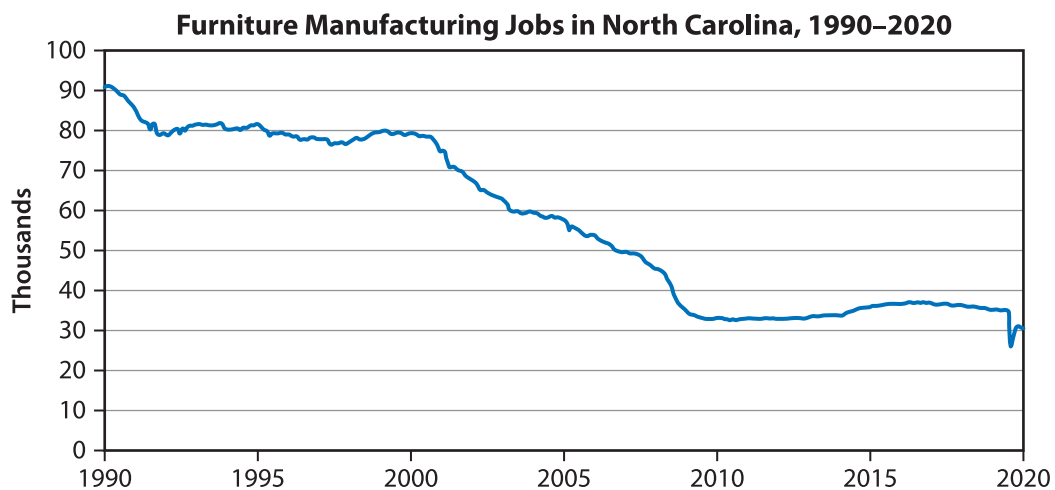
Once the backbone of North Carolina's economy, the textile and furniture industries faced difficult times in the early 2000s. Competition from companies in other countries led North Carolina-based companies to close factories and lay workers off. Overseas producers often had lower production costs, including lower labor costs. Local companies that did stay in business often adopted new technologies that also needed fewer workers. The impact was substantial. In 1996, the North Carolina textile industry employed more than 233,000 workers. By 2006, the number of jobs had fallen to just more than 80,000. The number of furniture-making jobs also dropped, though not as sharply. Iconic North

Carolina companies closed their doors. The rise of furniture manufacturing in China, particularly after China's entry into the World Trade Organization, had a devastating impact. Between 1999 and 2009, North Carolina's furniture manufacturing industry lost more than half of its jobs. These closings devastated towns that had long depended on these factories.

However, North Carolina's overall economy was resilient. The large banks that had grown alongside the textile industry in Charlotte and Winston-Salem continued to thrive. Charlotte became the country's second-largest banking center, after New York City. Beyond finance, North Carolina

also developed a thriving sporting culture. NASCAR, with its roots deeply embedded in the state's history of moonshine running and stock car racing, became a major industry and cultural phenomenon. The Charlotte Motor Speedway, along with other tracks across the state, drew huge crowds, and the opening of the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte in 2010 solidified the city's—and the state's—position as the heart of stock car racing.

The state also spurred innovation. Research Triangle Park (RTP), North Carolina's beacon of innovation and development, continued attracting researchers and high-tech companies specializing in biotechnology,



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

This graph illustrates the dramatic decline in North Carolina's furniture manufacturing jobs from 1990 to 2020.

pharmaceuticals, health care, and information technology. The RTP model was copied in other parts of the state, spurring the growth of similar parks linked to universities and to hospitals. The North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis was built on the site of a former textile mill and focused on food, nutrition, and health research. The Gateway Research Park in Greensboro is a joint venture between North Carolina A&T State University and UNC Greensboro. The Charlotte Research Institute at UNC Charlotte focuses on

precision metrology and information technology.

Vocabulary

pharmaceuticals, n. the industry focused on researching and developing medicines

As a result of these changes, education and specialized training became increasingly important in the modern economy.

Workers with college degrees or specialized training were more likely to find jobs.

Investing in education and programs to



Asheville, nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, attracts tourists from around the world eager to enjoy its historic architecture, art scene, and nearness to outdoor recreation.

help workers develop key skills became important ways for North Carolinians to adapt to the new economy. The service sector, including health care, tourism, and retail, also became more important to the state. However, these jobs often paid lower wages than the manufacturing jobs that had been lost. This helped create a wage gap between the workers in these industries and those with more advanced or specialized levels of education.

Despite the challenges of the twenty-first century, many North Carolina communities found ways to reinvent themselves. Smaller towns used their colleges and historic districts to attract businesses and tourism. Old tobacco warehouses, mills, and furniture factories were remade into town centers with shops, restaurants, and apartments. While some regions, particularly in the south and northeast, continue to face economic hardship, the overall trend has been one of growth and transformation.



Think Twice

Imagine you are graduating from high school in North Carolina today. What types of jobs are available? What education or training would you need? How might your choices about where to live and what to buy affect the state's economy?

Challenges in the Environment

With its beautiful coastline, rugged mountains, and diverse ecosystems, North Carolina has rich and varied environments. Those natural areas, and the people who live near them, faced growing challenges in the early 2000s. The state experienced a series of tropical storms, hurricanes, droughts, floods, and other weather events. These events caused significant damage to property, infrastructure, and agriculture. They also disrupted lives, displaced communities, and posed risks to public health and safety. Between 1980 and 2024, North Carolina saw 121 weather disasters.

Coastal erosion and rising sea levels threaten beaches, homes, and infrastructure along the coast and in the Outer Banks. High tides flood streets, and even minor winds cause flooding in areas that were previously safe. These threats pose a long-term challenge. The problem is becoming increasingly evident. Since 2020, multiple homes on Hatteras Island have collapsed into the ocean due to erosion. Wilmington has recorded seven inches (17.8 cm) of sea level rise since 2010, more than double the rise between 1980 and 2009. Some models show that

coastline sea levels will rise by ten to twelve inches (25.4–30.5 cm) in the next twenty years. The Outer Banks could face even higher sea level rise, an estimated fifteen to twenty-two inches (38–56 cm), during a similar time period.

The challenges facing North Carolina's environment extend inland. Rapid population growth and development are straining water resources in the highly urban Piedmont. Concerns about the quality of water and the amount of water available are increasing. This is true not only in urban areas, but also during periods of drought. The amount of water available is affected by increased demand from a growing population, meaning more water is being used from rivers, lakes, and groundwater sources. Periods of drought, which are becoming more frequent and intense, also reduce the amount of rainfall replenishing these



Low water levels at Fontana Lake, seen here during a period of drought, illustrate the strain on North Carolina's water resources.

sources. Land use changes, like the conversion of forests and farmland to suburban and urban areas, further reduce the land's ability to absorb rainfall and recharge groundwater.

This pressure on resources is made worse by changes in land use. As cities expand, valuable farmland and open spaces are being converted into housing tracts, shopping centers, and roads. This creates concerns about the loss of farmland, which can affect the state's food production capacity. It also reduces natural areas, causing problems for wildlife and **biodiversity**. For example, the red-cockaded woodpecker, a federally endangered species, depends on mature pine forests for its survival. These forests, once common in North Carolina, have been significantly reduced due to logging, development, and conversion to other land uses. The state is also home to several other threatened or endangered species, such as the Carolina northern flying squirrel and several species of freshwater mussels. How to find the right balance between growth and protecting the environment remains a subject of debate.

Vocabulary

biodiversity, n. a wide variety of plant and animal species in an area



The red-cockaded woodpecker has become endangered due to the logging and development of pine forests. This highlights the challenges of balancing economic growth with the preservation of biodiversity.

This debate extends to other resource extraction methods as well. For instance, the potential for hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") to extract natural gas in certain parts of the state has raised concerns about water contamination, air pollution, and seismic activity, leading to protests and legal challenges.

Natural disasters present another environmental challenge. Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding and damage in the eastern United States, including North Carolina. The powerful storm made landfall in Florida in September 2024. As Helene moved

inland, it shifted to the northwest, passing over western North Carolina. This brought torrential rainfall to the region, with some areas receiving over thirty-one inches (78.8 cm) of rain in just three days. This heavy rain caused rivers to overflow, leading to flash flooding, road washouts, and landslides. Several communities in western North Carolina saw homes and businesses destroyed. The impact on Asheville was notable because hurricanes are unusual in this part of North Carolina. While the city is accustomed to heavy rainfall, the volume of water Helene brought was highly unusual for this

inland, mountainous region. Flooding in Asheville damaged infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and the city's water supply pipes. The storm's impact on North Carolina highlighted the state's openness to extreme weather, even in areas not typically considered to be at high risk for hurricane impacts. About half of the deaths caused by Helene occurred in North Carolina.

North Carolina has taken various steps to address these environmental challenges and mitigate their effects. To combat coastal erosion, the state has implemented beach nourishment projects, in which sand is added to eroding shorelines to protect infrastructure and maintain natural habitats. Additionally, regulations limit development in vulnerable coastal areas. Conservation groups are working to restore wetlands, which help absorb storm surges. To reduce the impact of hurricanes, North Carolina has strengthened building codes in coastal regions, improved emergency response systems, and invested in flood prevention measures such as stormwater management projects and the restoration of natural barriers like dunes and marshes.

To conserve water, many municipalities have adopted stricter water management policies, including restrictions during

droughts and investments in wastewater recycling systems. Efforts to protect biodiversity include habitat restoration projects and conservation easements that preserve critical lands from development. The state has also expanded protected areas like state parks and wildlife refuges, safeguarding species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and freshwater mussels. In response to concerns about fracking and resource extraction, North Carolina has enacted stricter regulations and monitoring programs to prevent contamination and reduce environmental risks from land use and resource extraction. These efforts show how North Carolina has tried to balance economic development and environmental protection.

Think Twice



How might the environmental challenges facing North Carolina affect *your* life or the lives of people you know? Consider different regions of the state.



Society and Politics

The early 2000s also brought important social and political changes to North Carolina. While significant progress

was made in the decades following the civil rights movement, racial and social justice issues remained. Groups like the NAACP continued to advocate for equal rights and opportunities for all North Carolinians. They often focus on areas like education, employment, and the criminal justice system.

In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law known as the Voter Information Verification Act (VIVA). While the act is often called the voter ID law, VIVA made major changes to North Carolina's election laws that extended beyond just requiring photo ID at the polls. It also made several changes to the state's election procedures. The law limited the types of IDs that could be accepted by elected officials. For example, student IDs from state universities were not considered acceptable IDs for voting. The law shortened the period for early voting by a week and ended voting on Sundays. Sunday voting was often promoted through "Souls to the Polls" events organized by African American churches. It also eliminated the opportunity for voters to register on the same day that they voted during the early voting period.

Supporters of the law argued that these steps were necessary to prevent voter fraud. However, opponents argued that the law made it more difficult for minority voters, low-income individuals, students, and the elderly to vote. The North Carolina NAACP, other civil rights groups, and the U.S. Department of Justice all fought against the law. They argued, citing voting data, that African American voters were more likely to lack the specific IDs required.

The law was challenged in court. In 2016, a federal appeals court struck down several provisions of the law. However, voter ID requirements and other election law changes have continued to be debated in North Carolina.



Voter registration drives, like the one pictured here, increased after the passage of North Carolina's 2013 Voter Information Verification Act (VIVA).

One important trend of the early 2000s was increasing political **polarization**. Disagreements between Democrats and Republicans over issues like taxes, funding for schools, school choice, regulation of businesses, and social policy often made it difficult to find common ground. Elections were often closely contested. One example of a closely contested election during this time was the 2008 gubernatorial race between Democratic candidate Beverly Perdue and Republican candidate Pat McCrory. The election was highly competitive, reflecting the state's increasingly divided political landscape. Beverly Perdue ultimately won the governorship by a margin of just three percentage points, becoming North Carolina's first female governor.

Vocabulary

polarization, n. division into sharply different groups or opinions

In another change, control of the North Carolina General Assembly shifted from Democratic to Republican hands in 2010 for the first time since 1896. The new Republican majority implemented significant policy changes, including tax reforms, educational policy shifts, and the introduction of voter ID laws. As of

2024, North Carolina Republicans have maintained control of both legislative chambers, with Democrats holding the governorship since 2017.



Looking to North Carolina's Future

North Carolina has a rich history of overcoming challenges and adapting to change. As the state moves deeper into the twenty-first century, it faces both opportunities and obstacles. Preparing future generations for a rapidly changing economy will require continued investment in education. With this investment, North Carolinians can gain the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow. Meeting the demands of a growing population will require more infrastructure. The state will need transportation, water, and communication systems to serve more and more new North Carolinians.

Ensuring economic growth is another important task. A growing economy will provide jobs for the state's growing population. North Carolinians will also continue to debate how to balance economic growth with environmental protection. Preserving North Carolina's

natural beauty and resources requires careful planning. Furthermore, ensuring that all North Carolinians have the opportunity to thrive demands efforts to address social injustice and economic inequality. People across the state will need to work together, to listen to and learn from one another, as the state continues to diversify.

The story of North Carolina is a story of adaptation. The challenges of the twenty-first century are great. So, too, is the state's potential for progress and innovation. And you are a part of that story. The decisions you make, the careers you choose, the

communities you build, and the way you engage with the challenges and opportunities ahead—all of this will shape North Carolina's future. You are part of the next chapter in North Carolina's history.

Writers' Corner

Choose one issue discussed in this chapter. Write a short paragraph presenting one side of the argument, and then write another paragraph presenting the opposing side. Be sure to use factual information to support each perspective.



From the mountains to the coast, North Carolina's history of resilience and adaptation provides a foundation for meeting the challenges of this century.

Glossary

A

activist, n. a person who takes action, such as petitioning or protesting, to promote support for a particular public policy or position on an issue [16]

alliance, n. an agreement between nations in which they work together toward a common goal or fight on the same side in a war [86]

armistice, n. an agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time [88]

arsenal, n. a place where weapons and other military equipment are stored [55]

assimilate, v. to adopt the ways of another culture [40]

autonomy, n. the power and freedom to self-govern or make one's own choices [55]

B

barrier island, n. a long, narrow island that runs parallel to the mainland coast and helps protect it from storms and erosion [5]

biodiversity, n. a wide variety of plant and animal species in an area [139]

Black Codes, n. laws passed in Southern states to limit the freedoms of African Americans after the Civil War [66]

blockade, n. a military strategy aimed at preventing people and goods from entering or leaving an area [61]

C

capitalism, n. an economic system in which resources and businesses are privately owned and prices are not controlled by the government [107]

caucus, n. a meeting of members of a political party or movement to select candidates, plan strategy, or make decisions about policy [117]

communism, n. a political and economic system based on communal ownership of property and industry [107]

consolidation, n. the process of combining things, such as businesses or institutions [121]

containment, n. the act or process of keeping something within certain limits, such as stopping the spread of communism during the Cold War [107]

corruption, n. dishonest or illegal behavior, especially by people with power [73]

credit, n. a promise to pay in the future for goods or services obtained in the present [94]

D

deregulation, n. the process of reducing regulations or restrictions [121]

discrimination, n. unfair treatment of a person or group because of beliefs about that group of people [21]

disenfranchise, v. to deprive someone of the right to vote or other rights of citizenship [80]

diversify, v. to make a company or country more varied in its economic activities [120]

divert, v. to shift to another purpose [32]

dynamic, adj. characterized by constant change, activity, or progress [10]

E

ecosystem, n. all the living and nonliving things that interact in a given area [5]

entrepreneur, n. a person who starts a business [71]

equitable, adj. fair [76]

F

federalism, n. a system of government in which the national government shares power with other levels of government, such as the states [16]

G

globalization, n. the state of a worldwide economy that includes free trade and using inexpensive labor markets in other countries [119]

grassroots movement, n. a reform movement beginning with and coming from ordinary people [20]

H

heritage, n. something that is inherited by one person or group from an older person or group [8]

hierarchy, n. a system in which people or groups are ranked one above the other according to status or authority [79]

I

inflation, n. a rise in prices and a fall in the purchasing power of money [62]

infrastructure, n. the public works system that includes roads, bridges, water, public transportation, etc. [11]

innovation, n. a new idea, device, or method of doing something [32]

interstate highway, n. a major highway that runs through more than one state [10]

L

literacy, n. the ability to read and write [40]

lynching, n. the killing of a person by a mob, often by hanging [65]

M

mass production, n. the process of making very large amounts of something [72]

metropolitan, adj. relating to a large city and its surrounding suburbs [133]

migration, n. the act of moving from one place to another to live or work [6]

militarism, n. a belief that a country should use its military to increase its power and achieve its goals [86]

monopoly, n. complete ownership or control of a resource or industry [73]

multicultural, adj. including many different cultures [124]

municipality, n. a city or town that has the right to govern itself [17]

N

nationalism, n. the belief that one's nation is superior to others and that its culture and interests should take precedence over those of other countries [86]

neutrality, n. the state of not supporting or helping either side in a conflict [86]

P

pandemic, n. an outbreak of rapidly spreading disease that affects many people around the world at the same time [132]

pharmaceuticals, n. the industry focused on researching and developing medicines [137]

plantation, n. a large farm where cash crops are grown on behalf of the person who owns the land [44]

plateau, n. a large area of high, generally flat ground [5]

polarization, n. division into sharply different groups or opinions [143]

primary, n. a preliminary election to appoint delegates to a party conference or to select the candidates for an election [117]

prohibition, n. the prevention of something, such as the sale of alcoholic beverages [91]

R

ratify, v. to approve [33]

reformer, n. a person who works to change or improve a system or institution, often with the goal of making it more fair or just [16]

resilience, n. the ability to recover from hardship or difficult circumstances [31]

S

secede, v. to formally withdraw membership [56]

sectionalism, n. strong loyalty to one's region and its interests, often to the exclusion of the interests of other regions [43]

segregation, n. the act of keeping people separate, usually on the basis of race [21]

sharecropper, n. a farmer who works land owned by someone else and pays the landowner with a share of the crops they grow [68]

slave code, n. a set of laws that limited the rights of enslaved persons [45]

sovereignty, n. the right of a group of people to govern themselves [17]

status quo, n. a Latin phrase meaning the existing state of affairs, or the way things currently are [49]

suffrage, n. the right to vote [49]

superpower, n. a nation with a dominant position in the world [106]

surplus, n. an extra amount, beyond what is needed [94]

T

temperance, n. the practice of drinking little or no alcohol [79]

tenant farmer, n. a farmer who rents land and pays the landowner a fixed amount of money or crops [68]

textile, n. cloth or fabric [32]

tyrannical, adj. abusing power in a harsh and brutal way [34]

U

urbanization, n. the formation and growth of cities [44]

W

white supremacist, adj. relating to people or groups who believe that white people are superior to members of other groups [65]



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