

Part Two: A Short History

Narrator: As strangers to one another we came and built a country, and the country built us into Americans. The sweat of the men of old nations was poured out to build a new. The sweat of our first settlers: the English, the Scotch, the Dutch, building the workshop of New England; of the Italian in the sulfur mines of Louisiana; of the Frenchmen and the Swiss in the vineyards of California and New York state; of the Dane, the Norwegian, the Swede, seeding the good earth to make the Midwest bloom with grain; of the Pole and the Welshman; of the Negro harvesting cotton in the hot Southern sun; of the Spaniard, the first to roam the great Southwest; of the Mexican in the oil fields of Texas and on the ranches of New Mexico; of the Greek and the Portuguese, harvesting the crop the oceans yield; of the German with his technical skill; of the Hungarian and the Russian; of the Irishman, the Slav, and the Chinese working side-by-side – the sweat of Americans. And a great nation was built.

Yes, the sweat of the men of all nations built America – and the blood. For the blood of Americans has been freely shed. Five times in our history have we withstood the challenge to the idea that made our nation: the idea of equality for all men; life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The idea that made us the people we are. Let's take a look at ourselves before we went into this war.