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# THE UNITED STATES

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

BY

E. A. BENIANS

*Master of St John's College  
Cambridge*



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## PREFACE

Four lectures given to a Cambridge audience with the object of showing something of the content and interest of American history have been somewhat expanded in the following historical sketch of the United States in the hope that in this form they may serve the same purpose in a wider field. The titles of the chapters indicate the sequence of American historical development which I have endeavoured to follow. 'The New Nation' surveys the course of events from the establishment of independence to the end of the Napoleonic Wars; 'Western Settlement' treats of westward expansion down to the Civil War and its influence on American life and institutions; 'The Union' deals with the origins and consequences of the great struggle to preserve the unity of the nation; 'Industrial Greatness' with the economic expansion of the country; and 'The New World and the Old' with the developments of the twentieth century. The American achievement is not the least significant chapter in the history of human freedom, and in days when the successful collaboration of Great Britain and the United States may do so much to determine whether that history shall become an ampler story or a tale that is told, there is an awakened desire for the mutual knowledge and understanding which is the firmest foundation of friendship. I hope that this sketch, slight as it is, may be of some use to those who have not the chance of reading more widely by making clear a few of the leading facts and principles in the history of the United States.

I am most grateful to my friends, Mr T. R. Glover and Mr M. P. Charlesworth, Fellows of my own College and fellow-students of things American, for reading the book in manuscript and for many invaluable suggestions.

E. A. B.

*November 1942*

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