



Cartography of the United States

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Maps of the New World had been produced since the 16th century. The history of cartography of the United States of America begins in the 18th century, after the declared independence of the Thirteen original colonies on July 4, 1776, during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). Later, Samuel Augustus Mitchell published a map of the United States in 1867. The *National Program for Topographic Mapping* was initiated in 1884 by the United States Geological Survey.



1681 map of North America

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Changes to territories

As the United States of America changed territorial lines, maps were updated and redrawn, e.g. when the new state Hawaii was added on August 21, 1959.



Antebellum map of the United States, published by Sidney E. Morse in *An atlas of the United States* (1823), showing the recent acquisition of Missouri and Louisiana, and the remnant of the Northwest Territory after the establishment of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois

Some maps show the state lines (boundaries) of the individual states, whereas other maps simply show the national boundaries between the United States and other nations. USA consists of 50 states and covers the total area of 3,679,245 sq. miles. The population of USA was 281,421,906 in 2000 census. There are 79.6 persons on average per square mile. In 2003 the estimated population of the country was 291,587,000.



Mitchell's 1867 map of the United States



Map of the United States of America, showing Hawaii (*lower left*), which became a U.S. state in August 1959

The map of the US shows that it is bordered with Canada on the North, by Mexico on South and the Bahamas on the southeast. Alaska, a state of the USA, is bordered with Canada on the East and Russia on the west. The map also shows the relation of the country with its neighbor hood countries.



Wikimedia Commons has media related to *Maps of the United States*.

The names and boundaries of each state are shown in the map.

Footnotes

Further reading


- Susan Schulten, *Mapping the Nation: History and Cartography in Nineteenth-Century America*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

See also

- Geography of the United States

- Territorial evolution of the United States
- United States National Grid
- United States territorial acquisitions

External links

-  Media related to Maps of the United States at Wikimedia Commons
- 125 Years of Topographic Mapping
(<http://nationalmap.gov/ustopo/history.html>)

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