

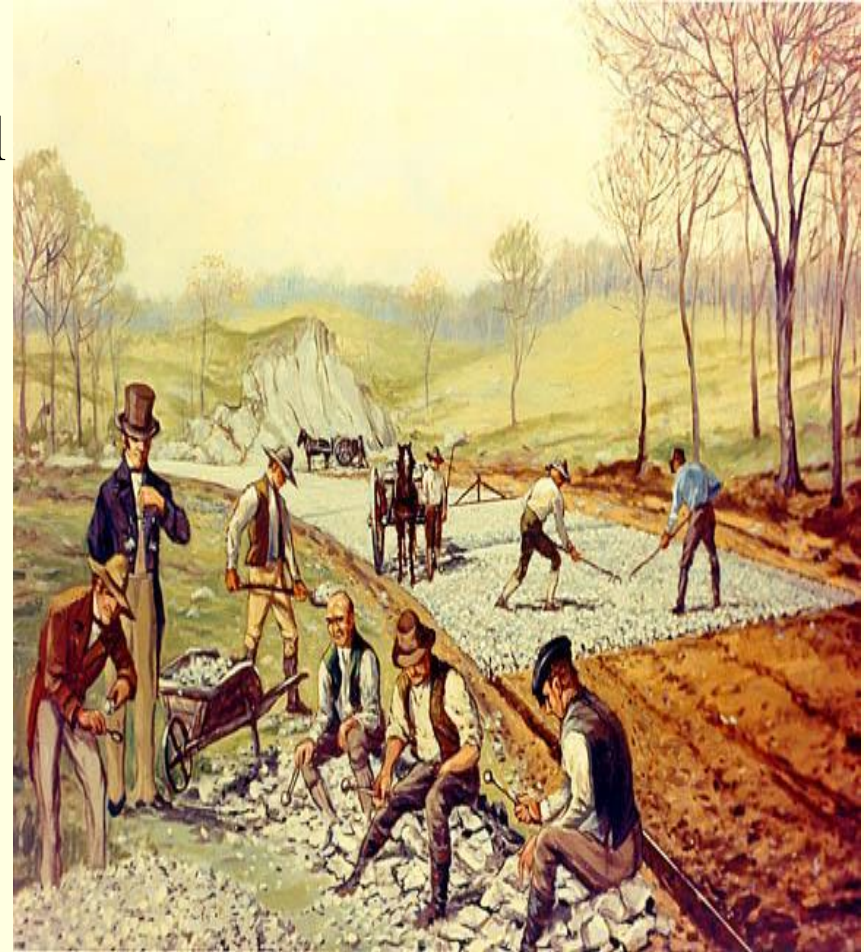
The background of the image is a close-up, slightly angled view of the United States flag. The stars and stripes are clearly visible, with the blue canton containing white stars in the upper left corner. The flag appears to be waving, creating a sense of movement and depth. The colors are vibrant, with a deep red, bright white, and a rich blue.

**Transport in
the USA**

- **The development of
American transport
system**

The development of transport facilities was very important in the growth of the United States.

- The first travel routes were natural waterways. No surfaced roads existed until the 1790s, when the first turnpikes were built. Besides the overland roads, many canals were constructed between the late 18th century and 1850 to link navigable rivers and lakes in the eastern United States and in the Great Lakes region.



Steam railways began to appear in the East in the 1820s.



- The first transcontinental railway was constructed between 1862 and 1869 by the Union Pacific and Central Pacific companies, both of which received large subsidies from the federal government.



- Transcontinental railways were the chief means of transport used by European settlers who populated the West in the latter part of the 19th century. The railways continued to expand until 1917, when their length reached a peak of about 407,000 km. Since then motor transport became a serious competitor to the railway both for passengers and freight.

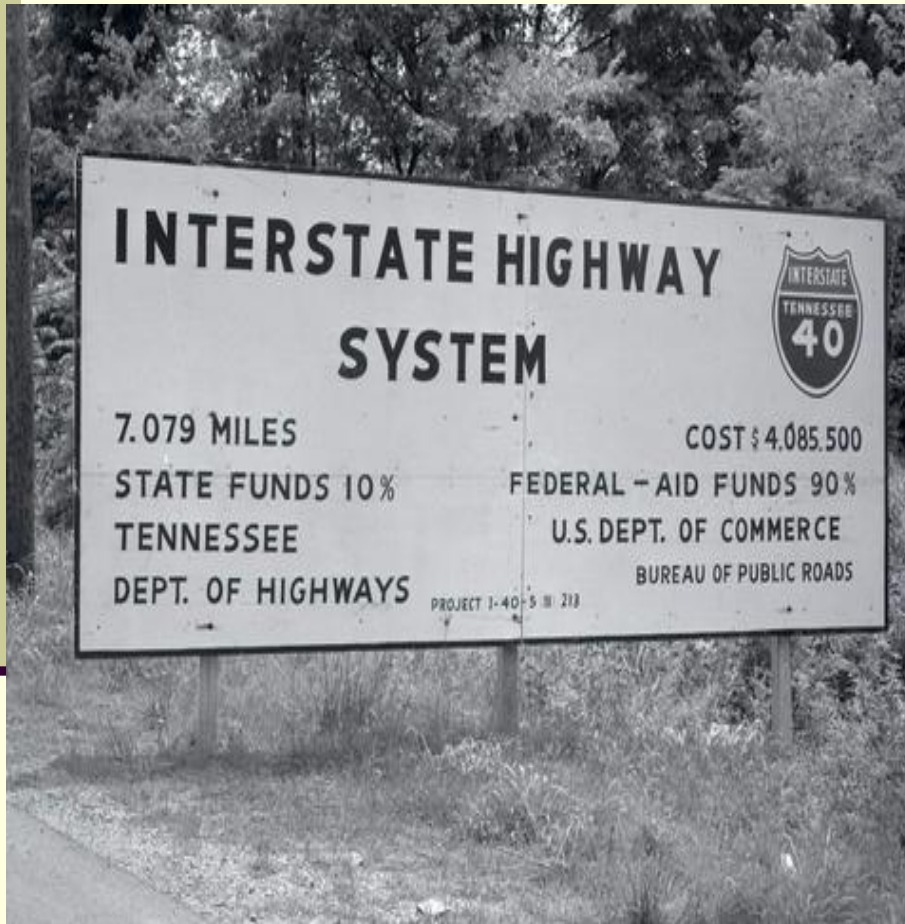
Air transport began to compete with other modes of transport after World War I.

- Passenger service began to gain importance in 1920s, but not until the beginning of commercial jet craft after World War II did air transport become a leading mode of travel.



■ Modern transportation in the USA

Road transportation



- The US road network has more than 70,000 km of motorways and 6.1 million km of other roads. All highways are maintained by state governments, although they receive federal aid to build and maintain freeways signed as part of the nationwide Interstate highway network.

Intercity Bus

- Greyhound Lines is the largest intercity bus company in the United States, with routes in all parts of the continental U.S. There are also many smaller regional bus companies, many of which use the terminal and booking facilities provided by Greyhound.



Air transport

- The U.S. has advanced air transportation infrastructure which utilizes approximately 5,000 paved runways. In terms of passengers, 17 of the world's 30 busiest airports are in the United States, including the world's busiest Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.



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- There is no single national flag airline. Aviation in the United States has been completely privatized. There is currently no direct government regulation of ticket pricing, although the federal government retains jurisdiction over aircraft safety, pilot training, and accident investigations (through the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board). Airports are usually constructed and operated by local governments (the main exceptions are federal military bases).

Rail

Nearly all railroad corridors (not including local transit rail systems) are owned by private companies, which provide freight service. Amtrak pays these companies for the rights to use the tracks for passenger service. There are approximately 240,000 km of mainline rail routes in the United States - the world's longest national railroad network.



Water transport



Water transport is largely used for freight. Passenger service connects many of the nation's islands and remote coastal areas, crosses lakes, rivers, and harbors, and provides alternative access to Alaska which bypasses Canada. Several major seaports in the United States include New York City on the east coast, New Orleans and Houston on the gulf coast, and Los Angeles on the west coast.

- Ferry service is available in many parts of the country, including the Great Lakes region, Washington state, and the New York City area. Alaska is served by long-distance ferry routes that connect it to the rest of the country.

