

CHAPTER I. THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY.

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The first discovery of the continent was made by Christopher Columbus in 1492. He sailed from Spain in search of a westward route to the Indies, and on October 12, 1492, he landed on the island of San Salvador in the West Indies. This event marked the beginning of European exploration and settlement in North America.

Following Columbus's discovery, other explorers such as Amerigo Vesputi and John Cabot continued to explore the eastern coast of North America. In 1497, Cabot sailed from England and reached the coast of Newfoundland. These early voyages laid the foundation for the future colonization of the continent.

The first permanent European settlement in North America was established by the Spanish in 1565 at St. Augustine, Florida. This settlement was founded by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and marked the beginning of Spanish colonial rule in the region. Other settlements followed in the years to come, as European powers vied for control of the continent.

The English also established permanent settlements in North America. In 1607, the first English colony was founded at Jamestown, Virginia. This settlement was the first of many that would be established along the eastern coast, leading to the growth of the English colonies and the eventual formation of the United States.

The early history of the country is a story of exploration, discovery, and the struggle for power between European nations. It is a story that shaped the destiny of the continent and the lives of the people who lived there. The events of this early period are crucial to understanding the development of the United States and its role in the world.