



United States Capitol

Art of the United States of America

Rebecca Hinson

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Dedicated to my beloved friend, Jonelle Kop

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The United States Capitol is the meeting place of the United States Congress. The art and architecture of the Capitol reflect the history of the United States of America.



Ancient Greece and Rome inspired both the architecture of the United States Capitol and the republic that the nation's founders created. On the exterior, a bronze statue, "Freedom," crowns the dome.



She holds a laurel wreath of victory, the shield of the United States, and a sword. She wears a helmet of stars and an eagle's head.



Three figures on the front pediment represent “Justice,” upholding the Constitution; “America,” founded upon the Declaration of Independence; and “Hope,” anchoring her trust in Providence.



The voyages of Christopher Columbus kindled European interest in the New World, where mankind might create a new, free society. Relief sculptures on the front doors depict Columbus's expeditions.



Inside, under the dome, George Washington rises to the heavens with Liberty, Victory, thirteen maidens, representing the original states, and figures of War, Science, Marine, Commerce, Mechanics, and Agriculture.



With his eyes lifted to the heavens and his hat at his feet, Christopher Columbus claims the island of San Salvador for his Spanish patrons, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.



Hernando De Soto encounters the Mississippi River. During his three-year expedition into North America, he claimed large parts for Spain and recorded much about the land, people, and animals.



At Jamestown, Powhatan halts his warriors from attacking John Smith at the request of Pocahontas, who had befriended the colonists --bringing them food when they were starving.



During the colonists' war with Powhatan and his tribe, Pocahontas was held captive for one year. Afterwards, she chose to live with the English, was baptized, married John Rolfe, and bore a son.



Placing their hope in God for protection, the Pilgrims pray en route to the New World. They founded Plymouth Colony, where they maintained their English identity and religious freedom.