

高级英语选修课教材 · 当代国家与社会系列 (引进版)

Contemporary America

(Second Edition)

当代美国 (第二版)

[美] 拉塞尔·邓肯 (Russell Duncan) 著
约瑟夫·戈达德 (Joseph Goddard)

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Preface and Acknowledgments to the Second Edition

In line with the other titles in this series, the aim of this book is to provide an accessible general introduction to the contemporary United States of America and offer guidance and resources for further study for both university students and general readers. We have intentionally adopted a narrative and grammatical style that exposes readers to formal American English as well as to colloquialisms, using American spelling and punctuation throughout. Our experience teaching in universities and business schools in Denmark, Norway, and the United States guided the selection of topics. In common with the nomenclature of many courses, “America” itself is used colloquially in the title to mean the United States of America. Russell Duncan has the overall editorial responsibility for the book and particular responsibility for Chapters 1, 2 and 5–10. Joseph Goddard has primary responsibility for Chapters 3 and 4.

The success of the book on first publication has led us to produce this substantially revised and expanded second edition after what seems a short – if eventful – interval. This has enabled us to take full account of G. W. Bush’s first term and the early months of his second.

We are indebted to our publisher Steven Kennedy for commissioning the text in the first place and for delivering unerringly good suggestions and leeway. We would also like to single out Palgrave Macmillan’s sales representative Ben Greig, who first listened to Duncan’s ideas for a textbook and suggested the fit with the *Contemporary States and Societies* series. Keith Povey did an especially good job in copy-editing the text. Special thanks go to our colleagues and students at the University of Copenhagen and the Copenhagen Business School for their widespread encouragement during the two years of writing and editing. We are grateful to those colleagues who have read all or parts of the text: Niels Thorsen, University of Copenhagen; John McCormick, Indiana University; Paul Richmond, Copenhagen Business School; Marian Morton, John Carroll University;

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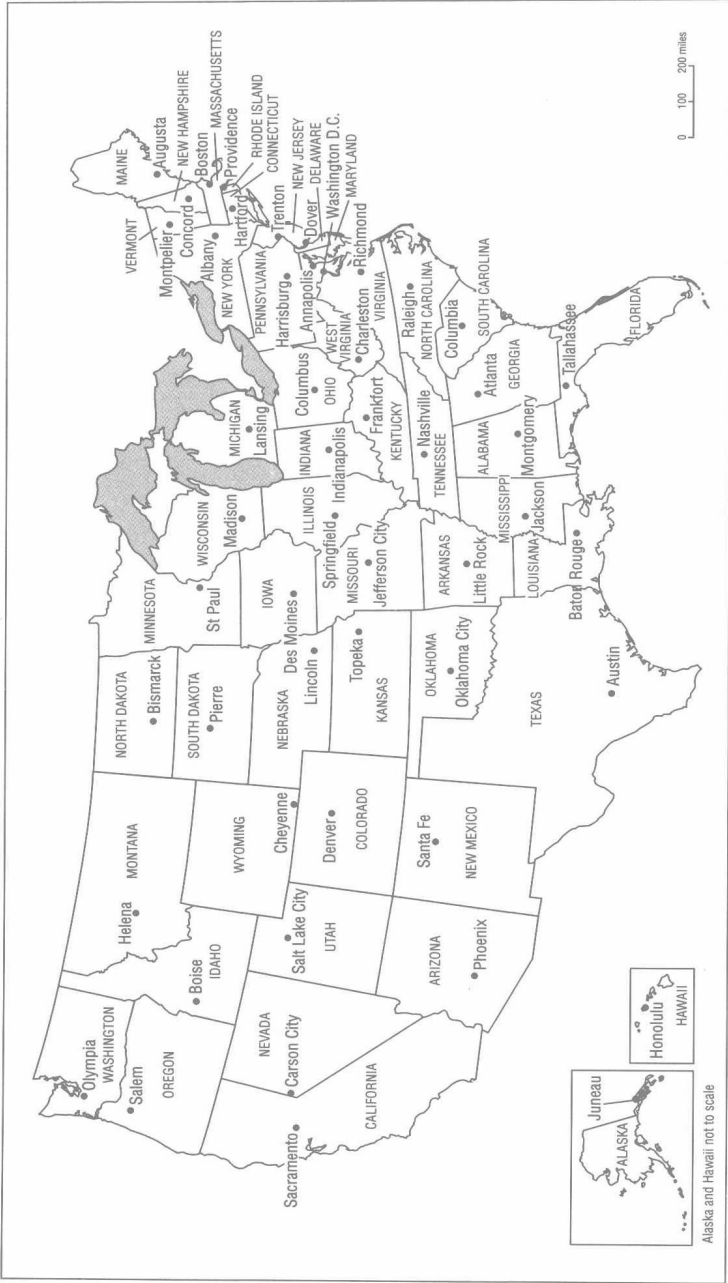
RUSSELL DUNCAN
JOSEPH GODDARD

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List of Abbreviations

ABA	American Bar Association
ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
AFL	American Federation of Labor
AFT	American Federation of Teachers
AMA	American Medical Association
BCRA	Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act 2002
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BPAA	Bowling Proprietors' Association of America
B-PAC	BPAA Political Action Committee
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIO	Congress of Industrial Organizations
CNN	Cable News Network
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
ELF	Earth Liberation Front
EOP	Executive Office of the President
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ERA	Equal Rights Amendment
EU	European Union
FTC	Federal Trade Commission
FED	Federal Reserve Banking System
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
HUAC	House Un-American Activities Committee
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
MLBPA	Major League Baseball Players Association
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement

NAM	National Association of Manufacturers
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCAI	National Congress of American Indians
NPS	National Park Service
NRA	National Rifle Association
NSA	National Security Advisor
NSC	National Security Council
NYC	New York City
NYSE	New York Stock Exchange
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PAC	Political Action Committee
PBS	Public Broadcasting Service
SDI	Strategic Defense Initiative
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TNBA	The National Bowling Association
UN	United Nations
WTC	World Trade Center
WTO	World Trade Organization



Map 0.1 The United States of America: States and State Capitals

Contents

<i>List of Figures, Maps, Illustrations, Tables, and Boxes</i>	iv
<i>Preface and Acknowledgments to the Second Edition</i>	vii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	ix
<i>Map of the United States of America: States and State Capitals</i>	xii
Introduction	1
1 History	6
The Rise of a Nation	9
The Rise to Power	17
From Isolation to Superpower	23
The Cold War	26
The 1990s	34
2 Land and People	37
The Land	39
The People	45
Regions	51
Immigration	70
3 Government	77
The Constitution	78
The Federal System	84
The Branches of Government	88
4 The Political System	106
The 2004 Election	106
Participatory Democracy	107
Political Parties	113
Politics	119
5 Society	131
Class	131

ii *Contents*

	The American Family	136
	Women	141
	Race	143
	Crime and Punishment	149
6	Religion, Education, and Social Policy	156
	Religion	156
	Education	169
	Social Services	182
7	Culture	189
	Diversity	189
	The Rise of American Culture	191
	Leisure Time	193
	Print Media	197
	Mass Entertainment	201
	Government Activities	205
	The World Wide Web	206
	Sports	208
	The Arts	211
	Popular Music	214
8	The Economy	218
	The US Domestic Economy	220
	Labor Unions	224
	Business and Industry	226
	Government and Business	229
	The Global Marketplace	235
	The Dollar and the Trade Deficit	238
9	Foreign Policy	240
	Separation of Powers and Foreign Policy	240
	The Administration of Foreign Policy	242
	History of Foreign Policy	244
	The Cold War, 1945–1991	247
	The New World Order	252
	The Bush Administration	256
10	Conclusion	268
	The Home Front	269
	Foreign Affairs	272

Conclusion	276
<i>Appendix: Constitution of the United States</i>	279
<i>Recommended Reading</i>	293
<i>America on the Internet</i>	297
<i>Bibliography</i>	299

List of Figures, Maps, Illustrations, Tables, and Boxes

Figures

2.1	Immigrants to the United States by Decade, 1821–2000	72
3.1	The System of Checks and Balances	84
3.2	The Lawmaking Process	98
3.3	The Court System	105
6.1	Education, Unemployment, and Salaries	173
6.2	The American Educational System	177
6.3	Educational Attainment, 2002	179

Maps

0.1	The United States of America: States and State Capitals	xii
1.1	US Territorial Expansion	14
2.1	Major Topographical Features	40
2.2	American Indian Reservations	48
2.3	The South	52
2.4	The North	57
2.5	The Midwest	63
2.6	The West	66
2.7	The Pacific Rim	69

Illustrations

1.1	American Progress	15
1.2	The Statue of Liberty	21
1.3	President Bill Clinton and the Roaring Nineties	34
2.1	Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming	42
2.2	Navajo Woman and Child	47
2.3	Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona	68
3.1	The State Funeral of Ronald Reagan	90
4.1	Schwarzenegger Wins Election for California Governor	109

4.2	Anti-War Demonstration	110
4.3	“Mission Accomplished”	124
5.1	Gated Community near Atlanta, Georgia	136
5.2	Anti-Abortion Billboard	144
5.3	Death Penalty Protester	154
6.1	Thanksgiving at the White House	166
6.2	Religion Writ Large	168
7.1	Times Square	196
8.1	Spacewalk	229
9.1	Vietnam War Memorial, Washington, D.C.	250
9.2	“W’s World”	257
9.3	Headlines of 11 September 2001 Attack on World Trade Center	259
10.1	Trouble Among Allies	273
10.2	Tsunami Relief Effort	276
10.3	Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice	277

Tables

2.1	Country and State Comparisons	38
2.2	The South	53
2.3	The North	57
2.4	The Midwest	61
2.5	The West	65
2.6	The Pacific Rim	69
2.7	Immigration by Country of Origin During Years 2000 and 2003	72
3.1	Profile of the 109th Congress (2005–2006)	100
4.1	Ideological Self-Placement and Party Identification	116
4.2	Presidential Preference in 2004	117
4.3	Presidential Elections, 1980–2004	121
5.1	US Population by Age and Sex, 2004	137
5.2	Life Expectancy	137
5.3	American Diversity, 2000	145
5.4	Executions and Death Row Inmates	155
6.1	American Religiosity	159
6.2	Foreign Students Studying in US Colleges/Universities in 2004	174
6.3	Estimated Costs for College/University Students for 2004–2005	175
7.1	What America is Reading, 1995–2004	199
8.1	Employment Status for Citizens Over Age 16 (2000)	221
8.2	Individual Income Tax Rates for Year 2004	223
8.3	Top Ten US Trade (Exports and Imports) Partners, 1993 and 2003	237
10.1	American Values, 2003	269

Boxes

1.1	Excerpt from The Declaration of Independence	12
1.2	The Gettysburg Address	18
1.3	The Pledge of Allegiance	23
3.1	The Constitution of the United States of America, a Summary	80
3.2	Federalism as Process	85
3.3	Constitutional Powers of Congress	97
4.1	Proposed Marriage Amendment	108
4.2	The Path to the Presidency	120
7.1	Official US Holidays	195
7.2	Top Ten Primetime Shows, 2003–2004	204

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Introduction

The opening decade of the twenty-first century has been overwhelmingly shaped by the American and world response to the terror attacks of 11 September 2001. Many analysts speak of a paradigm shift in foreign policy alignments, global economies, and domestic affairs. The events of the post-11 September world make the 1990s seem a vast, quaint universe away. But we should note that analysts had christened the last decade of the twentieth century as a “New World Order” under the common umbrella of democracy and free market capitalism. Certainly the decade marked a decisive end to the “post-World War II” or “Cold War” world and ushered in a new era. The 45-year period following the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the division of the world into “free” and “communist” influences, and the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 changed things. The world is still adjusting to those changes and countries rush to realign the geopolitical order.

Historically, the world’s nations have always been involved in a struggle for power. In the twentieth century the rise of the United States of America to superpower status prompted many to label the era “the American Century” and the dominance of American popular culture and products came to be called “Americanization.” Currently there is a rise in what might be termed “America-phobia” as some groups seek to tear down the hegemony held by the United States. There are widespread complaints about the cheapness of American culture with its runaway materialism. Others fear the transformation of their own culture to mirror changing American patterns, from birth-control pills to gender equality. Still others, who refuse, or are too young, to remember when the United States was an indispensable part of “the West” – buttressing Europe with an economic aid package called the Marshall Plan and protecting European and Japanese growth through military security – only see a selfish nation that goes its own way without a due respect for world opinion. There is no doubt that American military and economic power is in a league of its own.

The criticism is as justified as it is expected. As the leading world power, the United States gets the focus of world criticism on every issue domestic and international. This is not new. The discovery and colonization of the New

2 Introduction

World thrust America into the spotlight in the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries. The eighteenth-century revolution against Britain that established a liberal nation and the unprecedented population and territorial growth of the nineteenth century kept the nation highlighted. The twentieth-century world wars of nationalism forged coalitions that put the United States in the preeminent global position by 1945, and the Cold War advanced American power to the position it now holds. The country's unique standing has brought criticism not only for what it is and has been, but for the ways it acts and portrays its actions.

America is new, or likes to assert that notion. Americans often think of themselves as a people of the future whose personal pasts can be overcome or reinvented, even if they will volunteer upon the first meeting with any stranger that their families came from Ireland, from Germany, from Vietnam, or from elsewhere outside the US. The key word is "from" – as in, the Old World is a good place to be "from." With Americans, it is the *right here and right now* that has their attention. They seem to care more about the future and of *what could become*. Most Americans see themselves as risk-takers who grasp at chances to get a new life for themselves and their children. Sometimes that means leaving family and national ties behind to cross an ocean or a continent. Americans imagine themselves and their country in many ways; but when looking into a mirror, they are likely to see the reflected image of a dream that began not so long ago.

Much of what has happened in the history of the United States is based upon the European imagination of a New World. Europeans imagined America before they discovered it and, in the years since discovering it, they have been trying to define what it is that makes it different. Christopher Columbus never understood that he had located a new continent or continents in 1492, but died steadfastly believing that he was somewhere in eastern Asia. Others spoke of the discovery of an Atlantis, a lost continent that had long filled the European imagination. In the sixteenth century, explorers from many nations – some using a new map, *Amerika*, named for the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci – canvassed the coast of the New World, sailing into inlets, collecting souvenirs, and being astonished at what they did or did not find there.

The seemingly unlimited areas of free land provoked speculation about a New Eden where Indians lived easily off the land in a state of innocence, with no need for clothing or work. Others reasoned that Indians, being so different, must be "red devils" who should be summarily dealt with by the believers in Christ and civilization. Basically disregarding the claims of the Indians they encountered, Europeans saw the new land as a *tabula rasa* – a blank slate on which to write the dreams of national power by establishing

colonies and exploiting raw materials. But whatever Europeans believed – and they believed many things – they were overcome with the possibilities of what could be gained from possessing a part of America.

The idea of building something new on new land, of having the freedom to do so, of looking toward the future and not the past, of accepting the progress of change over the stasis of continuity, and of individual rebirth/recreation, inspired European adventurers and became the story of the American people. During the Age of Discovery, Europeans tried to define the dream that might be; during the Age of Reason, philosopher John Locke made what has proven to be a long-lasting appeal to innocence: “in the beginning, all the world was America.”

The American Dream and American history stem directly from these European dreams and imaginings. From its discovery until the present day, America-the-place as well as America-the-idea has been discussed as opportunity. It has been seen as a “safe haven” where conditions could be altered in favor of whoever needed change. Immigration, economic opportunity, and the chance for individual redefinition are central components of the American Dream.

At the 1950 Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm, the American author and literature winner, William Faulkner, told the audience, “The big difference between Europe and America is that we are still adding stars to the flag” (quoted in T. Morgan, 1993: 11). This was a patriotic statement of Cold War logic as well as a literal prediction that saw Alaska and Hawaii added to the flag in 1959. Addition has been central to American history. Historian Ted Morgan calls the American experience an “unending quest” and agrees with Faulkner that “the American flag is unlike any other, because it’s an add-on flag, with room to grow” (T. Morgan, 1993: 11). Morgan wrote of the exceptionalism of the American experience because the seventeenth-century Europeans who would provide the impetus for the new nation arrived before the government did, landing in places where no government had previously existed (American Indians notwithstanding) and where control by European governments was shaky and ever-changing. Both Faulkner and Morgan declare for youth and mobility in American thinking.

Egocentric and religious, most Americans have believed that a divine Providence guided the nation. In the first years of the twenty-first century, nothing had changed the American belief in the country’s exceptional status. With the end of a Cold War putting an explanation point on the success of American individualism, and as immigrants continue to pour into the country, Americans still believe that every person in the world is a potential American citizen.

Americans are taught from childhood that anything or everything is