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THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CREATING A NATION AND A SOCIETY

美国何以成为世界上最有影响力的国家？关键在于其人民！
了解美国的历史和人民，就能洞察其国家和社会的成因
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美国人民

创建一个国家和一种社会
(第7版)

[美] 加里·纳什 (Gary B. Nash)
朱莉·罗伊·杰弗里 (Julie Roy Jeffrey)

主 编

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第一部分	殖民时代的人民,发端至 1815 年	1
第 1 章	古代美洲与非洲	1
第 2 章	欧洲人与非洲人到达美洲	24
第 3 章	17 世纪对新大陆的殖民	50
第 4 章	殖民地社会的成熟	91
第 5 章	帝国的烦恼	132
第 6 章	革命时代的人民	167
第 7 章	国家初创	213
第二部分	扩张时代的人民,1815—1877 年	256
第 8 章	东北与老西北地区的转型	256
第 9 章	奴隶制与老南方	288
第 10 章	内战前塑造美国的努力	322
第 11 章	西进	360
第 12 章	危局中的联邦	392
第 13 章	分裂的联邦	424
第 14 章	重建的联邦	457
第三部分	现代化的人民,1877—1929 年	489
第 15 章	美国乡村的实际状况	489
第 16 章	工业美国的初兴	520
第 17 章	新型的城市化	554
第 18 章	成为世界强国	582
第 19 章	进步主义者对抗工业资本主义	611
第 20 章	大战	646
第 21 章	富庶与焦灼	676

第四部分 生机勃勃的人民,1929 年至今 707

第 22 章 大萧条与新政 707

第 23 章 第二次世界大战 741

第 24 章 冷战时期的寒彻与狂热,1945—1960 年 775

第 25 章 战后美国国内形势的发展变化,1945—1960 年
..... 796

第 26 章 反叛与变革:喧嚣骚动的 60 年,1960—1969 年
..... 832

第 27 章 无序和愤懑,1969—1980 年 866

第 28 章 保守主义的复兴,1980—2010 年 901

附录:《独立宣言》,1776 年 7 月 4 日

《美利坚合众国宪法》,1789 年 3 月 4 日

历届总统选举

BRIEF CONTENTS

PART ONE An Emerging People, origins to 1815 1

- 1** Ancient America and Africa 1
- 2** Europeans and Africans Reach the Americas 24
- 3** Colonizing a Continent in the Seventeenth Century 50
- 4** The Maturing of Colonial Society 91
- 5** Bursting the Bonds of Empire 132
- 6** A People in Revolution 167
- 7** Creating a Nation 213

PART TWO An Expanding People, 1815 to 1877 256

- 8** Currents of Change in the Northeast and the Old Northwest 256
- 9** Slavery and the Old South 288
- 10** Shaping America in the Antebellum Age 322
- 11** Moving West 360
- 12** The Union in Peril 392
- 13** The Union Severed 424
- 14** The Union Reconstructed 457

PART THREE A Modernizing People, 1877 to 1929 489

- 15** The Realities of Rural America 489
- 16** The Rise of Smokestack America 520
- 17** The New Metropolis 554
- 18** Becoming a World Power 582
- 19** The Progressives Confront Industrial Capitalism 611
- 20** The Great War 646
- 21** Affluence and Anxiety 676

BRIEF CONTENTS

PART FOUR A Resilient People, 1929 to Present 707

- 22** The Great Depression and the New Deal 707
- 23** World War II 741
- 24** Chills and Fever During the Cold War, 1945–1960 775
- 25** Postwar America at Home, 1945–1960 808
- 26** Reform and Rebellion in the Turbulent Sixties, 1960–1969 844
- 27** Disorder and Discontent, 1969–1980 878
- 28** Conservatism and a Shift in Course, 1980–2010 913

CONTENTS

Features 13

Preface 15

About the Authors 21

PART ONE An Emerging People, origins to 1815 1

1 Ancient America and Africa 1

The Peoples of America Before Columbus 3

Africa on the Eve of Contact 11

Europe on the Eve of Invading the Americas 16

RECOVERING the PAST: *Archaeological Artifacts* 20

Conclusion: The Approach of a New Global Age 22

2 Europeans and Africans Reach the Americas 24

Breaching the Atlantic 26

The Spanish Conquest of America 30

England Looks West 38

RECOVERING the PAST: *Representations of Native America* 40

African Bondage 44

Conclusion: Converging Worlds 48

3 Colonizing a Continent in the Seventeenth Century 50

The Chesapeake Tobacco Coast 52

RECOVERING the PAST: *Houses* 56

Massachusetts and Its Offspring 62

From the St. Lawrence to the Hudson 72

Proprietary Carolina: A Restoration Reward 74

The Quakers' Peaceable Kingdom 76

New Spain's Northern Frontier 81

An Era of Instability 83

Conclusion: The Achievement of New Societies 88

CONTENTS

- 4 The Maturing of Colonial Society 91**
The North: A Land of Family Farms 93
The Plantation South 99
Contending for a Continent 105
The Urban World of Commerce and Ideas 112
RECOVERING the PAST: Household Inventories 115
The Great Awakening 120
Political Life 125
Conclusion: America in 1750 129
- 5 Bursting the Bonds of Empire 132**
The Climactic Seven Years' War 134
The Crisis with Britain 140
RECOVERING the PAST: Poetry 144
On the Brink of Rebellion 147
Severing the Colonial Bonds 155
Conclusion: Coming of Revolution 164
- 6 A People in Revolution 167**
The War for American Independence 170
The Experience of War 179
RECOVERING the PAST: Military Muster Rolls 181
Peacetime Opportunities and Challenges 191
Toward a New National Government 201
Conclusion: Completing the Revolution 210
- 7 Creating a Nation 213**
Launching the National Republic 215
RECOVERING the PAST: Foreign Travel Journals 224
Society in the Early American Republic 226
A Nation Divided 234
Jeffersonian-Republican Triumph 242
Conclusion: A Period of Trial and Transition 253

PART TWO An Expanding People, 1815 to 1877 256

- 8 Currents of Change in the Northeast and the Old Northwest 256**
Economic Growth 258
Early Manufacturing 266
A New England Textile Town 267
Factories on the Frontier 270

	Urban Life	272
	RECOVERING the PAST: Family Paintings	278
	Rural Communities	282
	Conclusion: The Character of Progress	286
9	Slavery and the Old South	288
	Building a Diverse Cotton Kingdom	290
	The Missouri Compromise	294
	Morning: Master and Mistress in the Big House	299
	Noon: Slaves in House and Fields	303
	Night: Slaves in Their Quarters	308
	Resistance and Freedom	312
	RECOVERING the PAST: Folktales	317
	Conclusion: Douglass's Dream of Freedom	320
10	Shaping America in the Antebellum Age	322
	Religious Revival and Reform Philosophy	324
	The Political Response to Change	326
	Perfectionist Reform and Utopianism	338
	RECOVERING the PAST: Slave Narratives	343
	Reforming Society	346
	Abolitionism and Women's Rights	350
	Conclusion: Perfecting America	358
11	Moving West	360
	Probing the Trans-Mississippi West	362
	Winning the Trans-Mississippi West	365
	Going West and East	372
	RECOVERING the PAST: Personal Diaries	374
	Living in the West	377
	Conclusion: Fruits of Manifest Destiny	390
12	The Union in Peril	392
	Slavery in the Territories	394
	Political Disintegration	400
	Kansas and the Two Cultures	407
	Polarization and the Road to War	412
	The Divided House Falls	417
	RECOVERING the PAST: Senate Speeches	420
	Conclusion: The "Irrepressible Conflict"	422

13 The Union Severed 424

- Organizing for War 425
- Clashing on the Battlefield, 1861–1862 430
- The Tide Turns, 1863–1865 439
- Changes Wrought by War 444

RECOVERING the PAST: Photography 446

Conclusion: An Uncertain Future 455

14 The Union Reconstructed 457

- The Bittersweet Aftermath of War 459
- National Reconstruction Politics 464
- RECOVERING the PAST: Novels 468**
- The Lives of Freedpeople 471
- Reconstruction in the Southern States 478
- Conclusion: A Mixed Legacy 486

PART THREE A Modernizing People, 1877 to 1929 489

15 The Realities of Rural America 489

- Modernizing Agriculture 491
- The West 494
- Resolving the Native American Question 501
- The New South 505
- RECOVERING the PAST: Magazines 506**
- Farm Protest 514
- Conclusion: Farming in the Industrial Age 518

16 The Rise of Smokestack America 520

- The Texture of Industrial Progress 522
- Industrial Work and the Laboring Class 528
- Capital Versus Labor 535
- Strive and Succeed 539
- The Politics of the Gilded Age 542
- RECOVERING the PAST: Congressional Hearings 550**
- Conclusion: The Complexity of Industrial Capitalism 552

17 The New Metropolis 554

- The Industrial City 556
- The New Urban Geography 564
- Reforming the City 572
- RECOVERING the PAST: World's Fairs 576**
- Conclusion: Cities Transformed 579

- 18 Becoming a World Power 582**
 Steps Toward Empire 584
 Expansionism in the 1890s 588
 War in Cuba and the Philippines 591
 Theodore Roosevelt's Energetic Diplomacy 598
RECOVERING the PAST: Political Cartoons 600
 Conclusion: The Responsibilities of Power 608
- 19 The Progressives Confront Industrial Capitalism 611**
 The Social Justice Movement 613
RECOVERING the PAST: Documentary Photographs 618
 The Worker in the Progressive Era 624
 Reform in the Cities and States 629
 Theodore Roosevelt and the Square Deal 631
 Woodrow Wilson and the New Freedom 640
 Conclusion: The Limits of Progressivism 643
- 20 The Great War 646**
 The Early War Years 647
 The United States Enters the War 654
 The Military Experience 658
RECOVERING the PAST: Government Propaganda 660
 Domestic Impact of the War 665
 Planning for Peace 670
 Conclusion: The Divided Legacy of the Great War 673
- 21 Affluence and Anxiety 676**
 Postwar Problems 678
 A Prospering Economy 681
 Clashing Values 688
 Hopes Raised, Promises Deferred 691
 The Business of Politics 696
RECOVERING the PAST: Advertising 702
 Conclusion: A New Era of Prosperity and Problems 704

PART FOUR A Resilient People, 1929 to Present 707

- 22 The Great Depression and the New Deal 707**
 The Great Depression 709
 Economic Decline 711
 Roosevelt and the First New Deal 714
 One Hundred Days 717

CONTENTS

- The Second New Deal 723
- The Last Years of the New Deal 730
- The Other Side of the 1930s 733
- RECOVERING the PAST: The Movies** 736
- Conclusion: The Mixed Legacy of the Great Depression and the New Deal 738
- 23 World War II** 741
 - The Twisting Road to War 743
 - Battles and Bullets 749
 - The Impact of War 758
 - Insiders and Outsiders 763
 - RECOVERING the PAST: History, Memory, and Monuments** 770
 - Conclusion: Peace, Prosperity, and International Responsibility 772
- 24 Chills and Fever During the Cold War, 1945–1960** 775
 - Origins of the Cold War 777
 - Atomic Weapons and the Cold War 782
 - The Cold War at Home 786
 - RECOVERING the PAST: Public Opinion Polls** 790
 - Conclusion: The Cold War in Perspective 793
- 25 Postwar America at Home, 1945–1960** 796
 - Economic Boom 798
 - Demographic and Technological Shifts 806
 - Consensus and Conformity 810
 - Origins of the Welfare State 814
 - The Other America 820
 - RECOVERING the PAST: Clothing** 826
 - Conclusion: Qualms amid Affluence 829
- 26 Reform and Rebellion in the Turbulent Sixties, 1960–1969** 832
 - John F. Kennedy: The Camelot Years 834
 - RECOVERING the PAST: Television** 838
 - Lyndon B. Johnson and the Great Society 843
 - Continuing Confrontations with Communists 853
 - War in Vietnam and Turmoil at Home 856
 - Conclusion: Political and Social Upheaval 864

27	Disorder and Discontent, 1969–1980	866
	The Decline of Liberalism	868
	The Ongoing Effort in Vietnam	876
	Constitutional Conflict and Its Consequences	879
	The Continuing Quest for Social Reform	886
	RECOVERING the PAST: Popular Music	890
	Conclusion: Sorting Out the Pieces	898
28	Conservatism and a Shift in Course, 1980–2010	901
	New Politics in a Conservative Age	903
	An End to Social Reform	913
	Economic and Demographic Change	918
	RECOVERING the PAST: Autobiography	924
	Foreign Policy and the End of the Cold War	926
	Conclusion: The Recent Past in Perspective	936

Appendix A-1

FEATURES

RECOVERING *the* PAST

Archaeological Artifacts	20	Magazines	506
Representations of Native America	40	Congressional Hearings	550
Houses	56	World's Fairs	576
Household Inventories	115	Political Cartoons	600
Poetry	144	Documentary Photographs	618
Military Muster Rolls	181	Government Propaganda	660
Foreign Travel Journals	224	Advertising	702
Family Paintings	278	The Movies	736
Folktales	317	History, Memory, and Monuments	770
Slave Narratives	343	Public Opinion Polls	802
Personal Diaries	374	Clothing	838
Senate Speeches	420	Television	850
Photography	446	Popular Music	902
Novels	468	Autobiography	936

MAPS

Expansion of the Aztec Empire, 1427–1519	5	German Settlement Areas, 1775 (Left)	
Spread of Islam in Africa, c. 1500 C.E.	12	Scots–Irish Settlement Areas, 1775 (Right)	94
Portuguese Voyages of Exploration	27	French North America, 1608–1763	107
The Spanish <i>Entradas</i> in North America	37	North America After 1763	139
West African Slaving Forts	47	Western Land Claims Ceded by the States, 1782–1802	157
Early New England	64	Military Operations in the North, 1776–1780	171
Restoration Colonies: New York, the Jerseys, Pennsylvania, and the Carolinas	75	Military Operations in the South, 1778–1781	174
Spanish Missions in New Mexico and Florida in the Late Seventeenth Century	82	Resettlement of Black Loyalists After the Revolution	190

FEATURES

- North America After the Treaty of Paris, 1783 195
- Federalist and Anti-Federalist Areas, 1787-1788 207
- Indian Land Cessions, 1750-1830 220
- Blacks and Slavery, 1790-1820 230
- Exploring the Trans-Mississippi West, 1804-1807 245
- The War of 1812 250
- The Haitian Revolution 253
- Urban Growth in 1820 and 1850 273
- The Varied Economic Life in the South 290
- Slave Revolts, Maroons, and the Abolition of Slavery in the Americas, 1790-1888 315
- Native American Removals: Southeast and Midwest 333
- Utopian Communities Before 1860 342
- North and South America, 1800-1836 364
- United States Territorial Expansion by 1860 366
- The Mexican-American War 368
- Overland Trails to the West 377
- Indian Land Cessions in 1840 389
- The Compromise of 1850 398
- Expansionist "Young America" in the 1850s: Attempted Raids into Latin America 403
- The Presidential Election of 1860 416
- Secession of the Southern States 427
- Eastern Theater of the Civil War, 1861-1862 431
- Trans-Mississippi Campaign of the Civil War 433
- The Progress of War, 1861-1865 443
- The Rise of Tenancy in the South, 1880 474
- The Return of Conservative Democratic Control in Southern States During Reconstruction 479
- The Natural Environment of the West 497
- Native Americans, 1850-1896 503
- Migration to the United States, 1860-1910 530
- The Presidential Election of 1896 547
- The City Beautiful: Enlarging Boston 578
- United States Territorial Expansion to 1900 589
- United States Involvement in Central America and the Caribbean, 1898-1939 603
- United States Involvement in the Pacific and Eastern Asia, 1898-1909 605
- Woman Suffrage Before the Nineteenth Amendment 620
- The Great War in Europe and the Middle East 648
- Europe and the Near East After World War I 671
- Mexican Population, 1930 692
- The Tennessee Valley Authority 720
- The Dust Bowl 725
- World War II: Pacific Theater 751
- World War II: European and North African Theaters 752
- Cold War Europe in 1950 783
- The Korean War 789
- U.S. Interstate Highway System 812
- Independence in Africa 833
- The Berlin Wall 867
- The Vietnam War 870
- The Yom Kippur War of 1973 883
- The Fall of Communism 940

1

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Ancient America and Africa

American Stories

Three Women's Lives Highlight the Convergence of Three Continents

In what historians call the “early modern period” of world history—roughly the fifteenth to seventeenth century, when peoples from different regions of the world came into close contact with each other—three women played key roles in the convergence and clash of societies from Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Their lives highlight some of this chapter's major themes, which developed in an era when the people of three continents began to encounter each other and the shape of the modern world began to take form.

Born in 1451, Isabella of Castile was a banner-bearer for *reconquista*—the centuries-long Christian crusade to expel the **Muslim** rulers who had controlled Spain for centuries. When the queen of Castile married Ferdinand, the king of Aragon, in 1469, the union of their kingdoms forged a stronger Christian Spain now prepared to realize a new religious and military vision. Eleven years later, after ending hostilities with Portugal, Isabella and Ferdinand began consolidating their power. By expelling Muslims and Jews, the royal couple pressed to enforce Catholic religious conformity. Isabella's religious zeal also led her to sponsor four voyages of Christopher Columbus as a means of extending Spanish power across the Atlantic. The first was commissioned in 1492, only a few months after what the Spanish considered a “just and holy war” against infidels culminated in the surrender of Moorish Granada, the last stronghold of Islam in Christian Europe. Sympathizing with Isabella's fervent piety and desire to convert the people of distant lands to Christianity, after 1493 Columbus signed his letters “Christopher Columbus, Christ Bearer.”

On the other side of the Atlantic resided an Aztec woman of influence, also called Isabella by the Spanish, who symbolized the mixing of her people with the Spanish. Her real name was Tecuichpotzin, which meant “little royal maiden” in Nahuatl, the Aztec language. The first-born child of the Aztec ruler Moctezuma II and Teotlalco, his wife, she entered the world in 1509—before the Aztecs had seen a

Chapter Outline

The Peoples of America
Before Columbus

Africa on the Eve of Contact

Europe on the Eve of Invading
the Americas

Conclusion: The Approach of
a New Global Age