

The Brief

AMERICAN PAGEANT

Second Edition



*David M. Kennedy
Thomas A. Bailey
Mel Piehl*

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The Brief American Pageant

A HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC

Second Edition



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PREFACE

The American Pageant has long enjoyed a deserved reputation as one of the most accessible, popular, and effective textbooks in the field of American history. Thomas A. Bailey gave to the book a distinctive personality that mirrored his vast learning and the sparkling classroom style that he had cultivated during his nearly four decades of teaching at Stanford University. Every page of the text captures the charm of his inventive prose, his passion for clarity, his disdain for clutter, and his mastery of the narrative form.

The Brief American Pageant, Second Edition, seeks to preserve the outstanding attributes of the parent text in a format suitable for one-semester courses in American history, as well as for courses that rely heavily on readings in primary sources or specialized monographs. Like the longer Eighth Edition from which it is drawn, it preserves the basic features that have made *The American Pageant* unique, while incorporating the rich, new scholarship in social, economic, cultural, and intellectual history that has appeared in the last generation. This edition of the text reflects the new historical emphasis on the experience of people—including women, the poor, blacks, Hispanics, and certain religious groups—who until recently were often neglected by historians. It is also shaped by the belief that the main drama and the urgent interest of American history reside in the public arena in which these and other groups contend and cooperate with one another. Public affairs, in short, form the spine of the text's account of American history.

This edition includes much new material on the history of the family from colonial times to the twentieth century; on the influence of religion in American life; on the role of ideas in the making of the Revolution, the Constitution, and the two-party system, and in the struggle for women's rights; on the effects of urbanization and suburbanization; and on the causes and consequences of immigration, old and new.

Readers will also find completely new or substantially revised chapters on seventeenth-century American society, the Jacksonian period, the growth of the market economy, slavery and abolitionism, Reconstruction, and the rise of the city in post-Civil War America. The coverage of twentieth-century American history includes a fresh discussion of the domestic and diplomatic dimensions of World War I; new material on the home front during World War II; an updated account of the origins of the Cold War; and a substantial reworking of the entire post-1945 portion of the text.

Most of the "Varying Viewpoints" essays have been substantially revised to reflect recent scholarship and to better stimulate classroom discussion. The end-of-chapter bibliographies include an added subsection recommending primary-source documents for further study. An expanded appendix features tables and graphs with valuable information on American social and economic history.

This *Brief American Pageant*, Second Edition, presents the subject of American history in an engaging and lively way, without distorting the sober reality

of the past. Brevity, Shakespeare noted, is the soul of wit. Though condensed, this edition seeks to preserve the bright personality that has led generations of students to discover in *The American Pageant* what Thomas A. Bailey so exuberantly taught—that the pages of history need not be dull. We hope that

readers of this book will enjoy learning from it, and that they will come to savor the pleasures and rewards of historical study.

D. M. K.

M. P.

*Sail, sail thy best, ship of Democracy,
Of value is thy freight, 'tis not the Present only,
The Past is also stored in thee,
Thou holdest not the venture of thyself alone, not of
the Western continent alone,
Earth's résumé entire floats on thy keel, O ship, is
steadied by thy spars,
With thee Time voyages in trust, the antecedent
nations sink or swim with thee,
With all their ancient struggles, martyrs, heroes, epics,
wars, thou bear'st the other continents,
Theirs, theirs as much as thine, the destination-port
triumphant....*

WALT WHITMAN

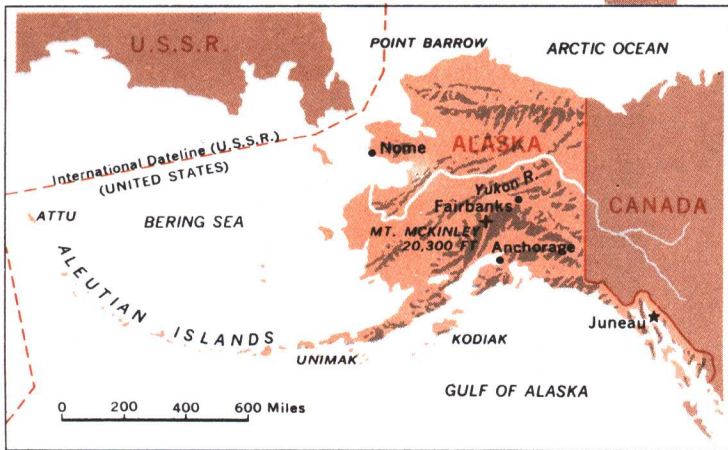
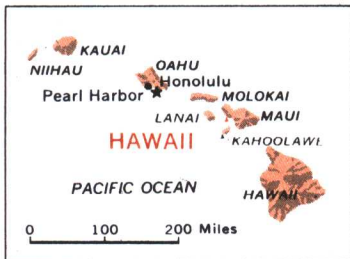
Thou Mother with Thy Equal Brood, 1872

The United States Today

⊙ Capitals of Countries

★ State Capitals

PACIFIC OCEAN







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1

New World Beginnings

... For I shall yet live to see it [Virginia] an Inglishe nation.

Sir Walter Raleigh, 1602

Before Columbus

Nearly five hundred years ago, the first Europeans stumbled on the American continents. This dramatic achievement opened breathtaking new vistas and forever altered the future of both the Old World and the New.

Of the numerous new republics that eventually appeared in the Americas, the most influential has been the United States. Born a pygmy, it grew to be a giant whose liberal democratic ideals, robust economy, and achievements in science, technology, and culture have left a deep imprint upon the rest of the world.

The American continents were slow to yield their virginity to intruders from the Old World. Expansive though it was, the ancient Roman Empire extended only as far northwestward as Britain. Except for a brief and soon-forgotten Scandinavian visitation about 1000 A.D., the New World remained unknown

and unsuspected to Europeans for fifteen hundred years after the birth of Christ.

First in the chain of events that led to the accidental discovery of the New World were the Christian Crusades of the eleventh to the fourteenth centuries. Although their avowed aim was to wrest the Holy Land from the Moslems, the armored Crusaders were more successful in enhancing "barbarian" European tastes for the exotic delights of Asia: spices for spoiled and monotonous food; silk for rough skins; drugs for aching flesh; perfumes for unbathed bodies; colorful draperies for gloomy castles.

But the distance and difficulties of transportation, for which Moslem and Italian middlemen charged dearly, made these products expensive luxuries in Europe. The consumers and distributors of Western Europe were eager to find a less costly shortcut waterway to Eastern Asia, but made little headway