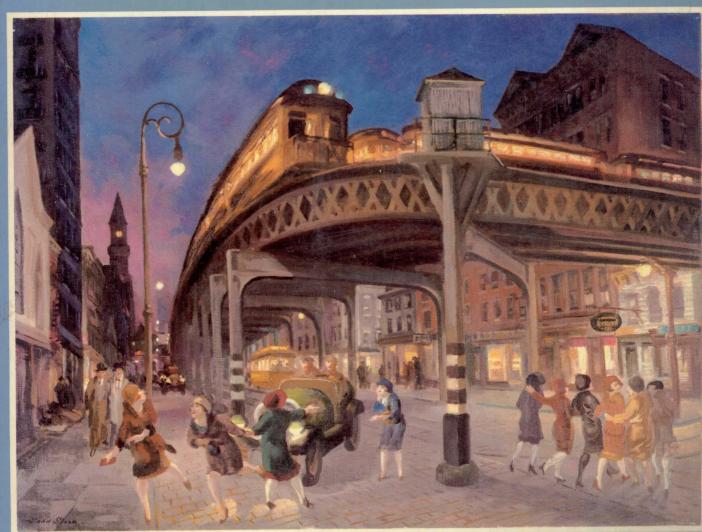
NASH · JEFFREY
HOWE · FREDERICK · DAVIS · WINKLER

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Creating a Nation and a Society



VOLUME TWO · SINCE 1865

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PREFACE

The Teton Sioux have a saying that "a people without history is like wind upon the buffalo grass." The Sioux mean by this that the wind will always blow and the grass always grow, but people cannot understand who they are and where they are going without an understanding of the past—where they have been. That is why the Sioux storytellers hand down the history of the tribe from generation to generation.

When we speak of the "people" of American history, we are immediately confronting an extraordinarily complex mixture of human beings. This country's written history began with a convergence of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans. The United States has always been a nation of immigrants—a magnificent mosaic of cultural backgrounds, religions, and skin shades. This book explores how American society, as it exists today, came to assume its present shape and develop its present forms of government: how as a nation we conduct our foreign affairs and manage our economy; how as a society we live, work, love, marry, raise families, sing, read, study, vote, argue, protest, and struggle-individually and collectively-for fulfillment.

Several special emphases distinguish this book from most textbooks written in the last 20 years. The coverage of presidential elections, diplomatic treaties, and economic legislation is integrated with the human story that underlays these more public aspects of American history. Within a strong chronological framework we have woven together our history as a nation and our history as a people and a society. When a national political event is discussed, for example, we analyze its impact on social and economic life, on life at the state and local level. Wars are described on the battlefield and in the salons of diplomats; but, as history's greatest motors of social change, wars are also discussed on the home front. The interaction of ordinary Americans with extraordinary events runs as a theme throughout the book.

Throughout, we have tried to illuminate the humanness of our history. The authors have often used the words of ordinary Americans and presented their participation in and responses to epic events such as war, industrialization, and reform movements. We have portrayed their material circumstances and woven the experiences of some of them through several chapters. At certain points we have focused on particular communities, describing not only their political, economic, and social contours but also their physical appearances and the rhythm of their everyday life.

GOALS AND THEMES OF THE BOOK

One of our major goals is to provide students with a rich, balanced, and thoughtprovoking treatment of the American past. By rich and balanced we mean a history that treats the lives and experiences of Americans of all national origins and cultural backgrounds, at all levels of society, and in all regions of the country. By thought-provoking we mean a history that seeks connections between the multiple factors—political, economic, social, religious, intellectual, and biological—that have operated to mold and remold American society over a period of four centuries. By thought-provoking. we mean also a history that encourages students to consider how we are all legatees of a complicated, achievement-filled, and problem-strewn past. The only history befitting a democratic society and nation is one that inspires students to initiate a frank and searching dialogue with their past. We hope to stimulate such a dialogue here.

We also hope to promote discussion about the major themes we identify running through our history:

- * the struggle for national unity and identity amidst cultural diversity and conflict;
- * the powerful reform impulse in American society, present from the beginning, that for the last two centuries has worked to fulfill the democratic creed in racial, gender, and social relations;
- * the competing claims of liberty and authority—in the family, the school, the workplace, the community, and the nation.

STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

Part Organization The chapters of this book are grouped into six parts to reflect major periods in the development of the nation and society. Each part begins with an introductory essay that outlines the significant themes and problems explored in the subsequent chapters. Following this introduction is a two-page display of parallel events that occurred during that particular period in history. Not only do these chronologies serve as a preview of the section, but they show what was happening simultaneously, in the political, the social and economic, as well as the cultural and technological spheres. They also help give the reader an integrated picture of how these various events converged to make American history.

Chapter Structure Every chapter begins with a vignette recalling the experience of an ordinary American. Chapter 1, for example, is introduced with the tragic story of Opechancanough, a Powhatan tribesman whose entire life of nearly 90 years was consumed by a struggle against the land hunger and alien values brought by Spanish and English newcomers. This brief anecdote serves several purposes. First, it introduces the overarching themes and major concepts of the chapter: the clash of three worlds-red, white, and black-in the North American wilderness, each with different cultural values, life styles, and aspirations. Second, the anecdote launches the chapter in a way which facilitates learning—beginning with the student's engagement with a human story. Lastly, the anecdote suggests that history was shaped by and affected ordinary as well as extraordinary Americans. At the end of the vignette, an overview relates the particular facts and ideas to the period under review and spells out the major themes of the chapter.

We aim to facilitate the learning process for the students. Every chapter ends with pedagogical features to reinforce and expand the presentation. A *conclusion* briefly summarizes the main concepts of the chapter and serves as a bridge to the following chapter. An annotated list of *recommended readings* provides supplementary sources for further study or research; novels contemporary to the period are often included. A *time line* reviews the major events and developments covered in the chapter.

SPECIAL FEATURES

A distinctive feature of this book is the two-page *Recovering the Past* presentation in each chapter. These RTPs, as the authors affectionately call them, introduce students to the fascinating variety of evidence—ranging from tax lists, folk tales, and diaries to tombstones, advertising, and house designs—historians have learned to employ in reconstructing the past. Each RTP gives basic information about the source, its use by historians, and then raises questions for students to consider as they study the example reproduced for their inspection.

In addition to the RTPs we have provided other elements that will enable the instructor to use the text as a basis for class discussion or assignments. The program of *color illustrations*—paintings, cartoons, photographs, maps, and charts—amplifies important themes while presenting visual evidence for student reflection and analysis. Each major part of the text includes a *portfolio* on American cultural life. They begin with an essay discussing trends and themes in the art and artifacts of the period and elaborating on the color illustrations displayed.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEACHING AND LEARNING AIDS

Several companion volumes for both teachers and students have been prepared to enhance this comprehensive presentation of American history.

* Gary B. Nash has selected and edited a two-volume set of readings, entitled *Retracing the Past*, to complement the text. Each reader contains around 25 selections covering political, social, and economic aspects of American history; Volume One focuses on the period until 1877, and Volume Two covers 1865 to the present.

Authors Julie Roy Jeffrey and Peter J. Frederick, both experienced instructional trainers, have written the *Study Guide* and *Instructor's Manual* to accompany the text. Tied closely to

the text, both supplements provide a useful basis for reflection and discussion.

- * The *Study Guide* (in two volumes) includes chapter outlines, significant themes and highlights, learning goals, list of important dates and names to know, glossary of important terms, learning enrichment ideas, and sample test questions. In addition, the authors provide helpful study hints such as how to underline a chapter.
- * For those students who have access to personal computers, the study guide is available on diskettes. *Study-Aid*, a computer program for the Apple II series and the IBM-PC, is keyed directly to the text for learning ease.
- * Teaching the American People is not merely a file of exam questions for the instructor. It is intended to serve as a resource book for new teachers and for busy and tired veterans as well. This manual contains ideas on ways to use the text to enliven the classroom; suggestions for generating class discussion and involving students in an active learning experience; and a list of resources such as films, slides, and photo collections, records and audiocassettes.

- * A separate *Test Bank* of approximately 1500 items has been prepared by Carol Brown of Houston Community College. Multiple choice, true-false, and essay questions are included to test students' recall and understanding of the text presentation. The *Test Bank* is also available in computerized form *(Microtest)* for both Apple II and IBM-PC.
- * To help you improve your students' geographical and analytical skills, we have also produced a set of color *Transparencies*. For maps showing detailed areas of the country, we have included an inset of the present-day United States with the area under study shaded in. The transparencies also include key charts from the text.

Our aim has been to write a balanced and vivid history of the development of the American nation and its society. We have also tried to provide the support materials to make the teaching and the learning experience enjoyable and rewarding. The reader will be the judge of our success. The authors and Harper & Row welcome your comments.

GBN JRJ

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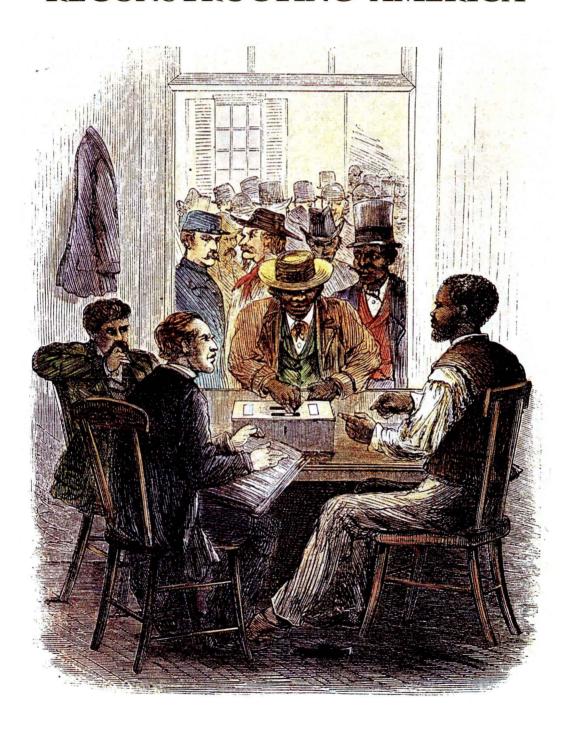
ted teacher, he began his career as a teaching assistant at Berkeley in 1960; he has taught at San Francisco State and California State College at Hayward, and since 1970 at Wabash College. Frederick's book, Knights of the Golden Rule: The Intellectual as Christian Social Reformer in the 1890s, was a runner-up in the Frederick Jackson Turner Award competition in 1974; other writing includes articles on social activism of intellectuals and educational reform. The recipient of several National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships, he held a Fulbright Lectureship in American culture at the University of Vienna in 1982-1983. Frederick has been recognized with several distinguished teaching awards and has conducted teaching workshops around the country. Areas of special research interest include nineteenth-century American social and intellectual history, black history, and biographies. He coordinated and edited all the *Recovering the Past* sections in this book.

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CHAPTER 17

RECONSTRUCTING AMERICA



CONTENTS IN BRIEF

CHAPTER 17	Reconstructing America	530
PART FOU	R AN INDUSTRIALIZING PEOPLE, 1865–1900	
CHAPTER 18	The Farmer's World	562
CHAPTER 19	The Rise of Smokestack America	594
CHAPTER 20	Politics and Protest	626
CHAPTER 21	The United States Becomes a World Power	658
PORTFOLIO	FOUR THE ART OF AN INDUSTRIALIZING PEOPLE after page 689	
PART FIVE	A MODERNIZING PEOPLE, 1900–1945	
CHAPTER 22	The Progressives Confront Industrial America	690
CHAPTER 23	America in the Great War	724
CHAPTER 24	Affluence and Anxiety	754
	The Great Depression and the New Deal	786
	The American People and World War II	820
PORTFOLIO	FIVE THE ART OF A MODERNIZING PEOPLE after page 851	
PART SIX	AN ENDURING PEOPLE, 1945–1985	
CHAPTER 27	Chills and Fever During the Cold War	852
CHAPTER 28	The Dreams of Postwar America	882
CHAPTER 29	From Self-confidence to Self-doubt	912
CHAPTER 30	Illusion and Disillusionment	944
CHAPTER 31	Austerity and the American Dream: The United States Since 1976	972
PORTFOLIO	SIX THE ART OF AN ENDURING PEOPLE after page 999	

CONTENTS

Recovering the Past	ix
Maps	ix
Charts	X
Preface	xi
CHAPTER 17 RECONSTRUCTING AMERICA 530	
The Bittersweet Aftermath of War	532
National Reconstruction	539
Life After Slavery	545
Reconstruction in the States	552
RECOVERING THE PAST / NOVELS 555a	
Conclusion: The Price of Peace	559
PART FOUR AN INDUSTRIALIZING PEOPLE 1865–1900 CHAPTER 18 THE FARMER'S WORLD	
The Modernization of Agriculture The Second Great Removal	564 574
562 The Modernization of Agriculture	
The Modernization of Agriculture The Second Great Removal	
The Modernization of Agriculture The Second Great Removal RECOVERING THE PAST / MAGAZINES 577a The New South Protesting Farmers	574
The Modernization of Agriculture The Second Great Removal RECOVERING THE PAST / MAGAZINES 577a The New South	574 578
The Modernization of Agriculture The Second Great Removal RECOVERING THE PAST / MAGAZINES 577a The New South Protesting Farmers	574 578 586
The Modernization of Agriculture The Second Great Removal RECOVERING THE PAST / MAGAZINES 577a The New South Protesting Farmers Conclusion: The Reality of Agricultural America CHAPTER 19 THE RISE OF SMOKESTACK AMERICA	574 578 586
The Modernization of Agriculture The Second Great Removal RECOVERING THE PAST / MAGAZINES 577a The New South Protesting Farmers Conclusion: The Reality of Agricultural America CHAPTER 19 THE RISE OF SMOKESTACK AMERICA 594	574 578 586 592
The Modernization of Agriculture The Second Great Removal RECOVERING THE PAST / MAGAZINES 577a The New South Protesting Farmers Conclusion: The Reality of Agricultural America CHAPTER 19 THE RISE OF SMOKESTACK AMERICA 594 The Character of Industrial Progress	574 578 586 592

RECOVERING THE PAST / CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS 615	ōa
Conclusion: The Complexity of Industrial Capitalism	623
CHAPTER 20 POLITICS AND PROTEST 626	
Politics in the Gilded Age The Life of the Middle Class	628 639
RECOVERING THE PAST / MATERIAL CULTURE 639a	
Middle-Class Reform The Election of 1896 Conclusion: Looking Forward	647 652 655
CHAPTER 21 THE UNITED STATES BECOMES A WORLD F 658	OWER
Steps Toward Empire	659
Expansionist Motives in the 1890s	665
Cuba and the Philippines	670
Roosevelt's Energetic Diplomacy	678
RECOVERING THE PAST / POLITICAL CARTOONS 679a	
Conclusion: The Responsibilities of Power	687
PORTFOLIO FOUR: THE ART OF AN INDUSTRIALIZING PEOPLE after page 689	E, 1865–1900
PART FIVE A MODERNIZING PEOPLE 1900–1945	
CHAPTER 22 THE PROGRESSIVES CONFRONT INDUSTE AMERICA 690	RIAL
The Social Justice Movement	692
RECOVERING THE PAST / DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHS	697a
The Worker in the Progressive Era	699
Reform in the Cities and States	705

Theodore Roosevelt and the Square Deal Woodrow Wilson and the New Freedom Conclusion: The Limits of Progressivism	709 718 721	
CHAPTER 23 AMERICA IN THE GREAT WAR 724		
The Early Years of the War	726	
The United States Enters the War The Military Experience	734 739	
RECOVERING THE PAST / FILM AS PROPAGANDA 741a		
Domestic Impact of the War	744	
Planning for Peace	749	
Conclusion: The Divided Legacy of the Great War	752	
CHAPTER 24 AFFLUENCE AND ANXIETY 754		
Postwar Problems The Borofte of Broomerites	756	
The Benefits of Prosperity Hopes Raised, Promises Deferred	760 766	
RECOVERING THE PAST / ADVERTISING 767a		
The Business of Politics	776	
Conclusion: A New Era of Prosperity and Problems	784	
CHAPTER 25 THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL 786		
The Great Depression	788	
Roosevelt and the First New Deal One Hundred Days	793 705	
The Second New Deal	795 801	
The End of the New Deal	810	
The Other Side of the Thirties	814	
RECOVERING THE PAST / RECREATION: FAIRS 817a		
Conclusion: The Ambivalent Character of the Great Depression	818	

CHAPTER 26 THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND WORLD WAR II

820

The Twisting Road to War	822
The Home Front During the War	829
Social Impact of the War	836
RECOVERING THE PAST / ORAL HISTORY 839a	
A War of Diplomats and Generals	841
Conclusion: Peace, Prosperity, and International Responsibilities	850
PORTFOLIO FIVE: THE ART OF A MODERNIZING PEOPLE, 1900–after page 851	1945
PART SIX AN ENDURING PEOPLE 1945–1985	
CHAPTER 27 CHILLS AND FEVER DURING THE COLD WAI	R
Origins of the Soviet-American Confrontation The Beginning of the Cold War	854 857
RECOVERING THE PAST / PUBLIC OPINION POLLS 857a	
Containing the Soviet Threat	859
American Policy in Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America	864
Atomic Weapons and the Cold War	871
The Cold War at Home	874
Conclusion: The Cold War in Perspective	880
CHAPTER 28 THE DREAMS OF POSTWAR AMERICA 882	
Demobilization and Economic Boom	885
Consensus and Conformity	894
Domestic Policy under Truman and Eisenhower	899
RECOVERING THE PAST / POPULAR MUSIC 899a	
The Other America	903
Conclusion: Qualms amid Affluence	910

CHAPTER 29 FROM SELF-CONFIDENCE TO SELF-DOUBT

912

/ 1		
The Presidency in the Sixties	914	
The New Frontier and Social Reform	917	
The Great Society	922	
The Rising Call for Reform	929	
Intensification of the Cold War	933	
Upheaval at Home	937	
RECOVERING THE PAST / TELEVISION 937a		
Conclusion: The Unraveling of the Affluent Society	942	
CHAPTER 30 ILLUSION AND DISILLUSIONMENT 944		
Republican Leadership	946	
Republican Foreign Policy	949	
Searching for Stability	953	
RECOVERING THE PAST / CARTOON HUMOR 961a		
The Climax of Social Reform	963	
Conclusion: The Struggle for Stability		
CHAPTER 31 AUSTERITY AND THE AMERICAN DREAM: TO UNITED STATES SINCE 1976 972	HE	
The Disordered Economy	974	
The Demographic Transformation	979	
RECOVERING THE PAST / AUTOBIOGRAPHY 981a		
The Continuing Struggle for Equality	983	

PORTFOLIO SIX: THE ART OF AN ENDURING PEOPLE, 1945–1985 after page 999

The New Reformers

The Carter and Reagan Presidencies

Conclusion: The Recent Past in Perspective

988

992

998

APPENDIX

Declaration of Independence	A-1	
Constitution of the United States of America	A-3	
States of the United States	A-13	
Territorial Expansion of the United States	A-14	
Presidential Elections	A-15	
Vice-Presidents, Cabinet Members, and Justices of the Supreme		
Court	A-18	
Population of the United States	A-26	
Demographic Contours of the American People	A-27	
National Origins of U.S. Immigrants, 1821-1980	A-28	
Characteristics of the American Work Force	A-29	
Credits	C-1	
Index	I-1	

RECOVERING THE PAST

Novels 555a	Recreation: Fairs 817a
Magazines 577a	Oral History 839a
Congressional Hearings 615a	Public Opinion Polls 857a
Material Culture 639a	Popular Music 899a
Political Cartoons 679a	Television 937a
Documentary Photographs 697a	Cartoon Humor 961a
Film As Propaganda 741a	Autobiography 981a
Advertising 767a	

MAPS

Changes on the Barrow		The Western Front of the Great	
Plantation, 1860-1881	548	War in 1918	742
Sharecropping in the South, 1880	549	The Presidential Election of	
Return to the Union During		1932	794
Reconstruction	554	The Tennessee Valley Authority	799
Agriculture in the 1880s	565	World War II: Pacific Theater	843
Election of 1896	654	World War II: European and	
United States Territorial		North African Theaters	848
Expansion	662	Cold War in Europe in 1950	863
The Spanish-American War	673	The Korean War	866
United States Involvement in		The Middle East in 1949	870
Asia, 1898–1909	685	Population Shifts, 1940 to 1950	
Major Parties in the Presidential		The Confusing 1960 Presidential	
Election of 1912	717	Election	915
European Alignments in 1914	727	The Vietnam War	936
United States Involvement in		Population Shifts, 1970 to 1980	980
the Caribbean	733	•	

CHARTS

Conflicting Goals During		Presidential Elections, 1920–1928	783
Reconstruction	533	Unemployment Rate, 1929-1940	797
The United States in 1865:		Distribution of Income, 1935–1936	802
Crisis at the End of the Civil		FDR's Successful Presidential	
War	535	Campaigns, 1932-1944	810
Reconstruction Amendments	544	Key New Deal Legislation	813
Average Farm Acreage,		Household Appliance Production,	
1860–1900	565	1929–1939	815
Agricultural Productivity,		Military Expenditures and the National	
1800-1900	567	Debt, 1940–1945	830
Price of Wheat Flour, 1865-1900	568	Gross National Product and	
Percentage of Farms Operated by		Unemployment, 1940–1945	831
Tenants, 1880-1900	570	Defense Expenditures, 1945–1960	862
Population and Economic		Major Events of the Cold War	879
Growth, 1855–1919	596	Weekly Earnings of Manufacturing	
Increase in Size of Industries,		Workers	887
1860-1900	600	Birth and Population Rates, 1900-1960	888
Ten Largest Cities in the United		Growth of Sun Belt Cities, 1920-1980	889
States, 1850 and 1890	601	Shifts in Population Distribution,	
Immigration: Source and		1940–1960	891
Volume, 1870–1900	603	Occupational Distribution, 1940-1960	892
Labor Force Distribution,		Households Owning Radios and	
1870-1900	609	Televisions, 1940–1960	894
Unemployment Rates,		Presidential Elections, 1948-1956	902
1870-1899	611	The Struggle for Equal Rights	921
Status of Young People (12–20)		Federal Aid to Education in the 1960s	925
by Ethnicity in Detroit in 1900	611	Major Great Society Programs	926
Two Nineteenth-Century		Women Working Outside the Home,	E. C
Budgets	622	1890–1970	932
Presidential Elections,		U.S. Troops in Vietnam, 1965-1973	937
1872-1892	630	College Enrollment, 1940–1980	938
Major Legislative Activity of the		Rate of Inflation, 1947–1977	953
Gilded Age	637	Oil Imports and Gasoline Prices,	
Growth of Women in the Labor		1973–1980	954
Force, 1870–1900	641	Unemployment Rate, 1940-1982	954
Increase in Higher Education,		Presidential Elections, 1968 and 1972	961
1870–1900	641	Women College Graduates, 1940–1980	964
Growth of American Foreign		Married Women in the Work Force,	, , ,
Trade, 1870–1914	667	1950–1980	965
Presidential Elections,		Share of Total Manufacturing Output	, 00
1896–1900	677	of Four Industrial Countries,	
Union Membership, 1900-1920	702	1950–1977	975
Immigration to the United		Union Membership, 1950–1980	976
States, 1900–1920	706	Farm Indebtedness, 1950–1982	977
Business Mergers, 1895–1905	712	Immigration: Volume and Sources,	211
Presidential Elections of the		1941–1980	980
Progressive Era	720	Changes in Female Employment,	700
Key Progressive Era Legislation	721	1940–1980	984
Motor Vehicle Registration and Sales,		Black Occupational Progress,	701
1900–1930	762	1940–1980	986
Ten Largest Cities, 1900-1930	764	Federal Budget Surplus or Deficit as	700
Telephones in Use, 1900–1930	765	Percentage of GNP	997
Women in the Labor Force, 1900-1930	773	Presidential Elections, 1976–1984	998
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