英文影印版

PEARSON

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CREATING A NATION AND A SOCIETY

精要本·第6版



美国人民

创建一个国家和一种社会

[美] Nash, Jeffrey, Howe, Frederick, Davis, Winkler, Mires, Pestana 编著

上册

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西非的约鲁巴人(Yoruba)有一句古老的格言: "无论溪流淌多远,永远不忘其起源"。我们很想知道,为什么像约鲁巴人这样古老的社会都能够认识到历史是如此重要,而今天的美国学生却怀疑历史的存在价值? 这本书的目的就是要终止历史价值怀疑论。

就在我们以一个民族和种族多样性的社会,迎头赶上一个全球相互依赖的社会开始 21 世纪的时候,历史对于我们将要行使的作为自由人民的权利和责任至关重要。历史不能制造好公民,但是没有历史,我们就不能理解我们面临的选择,并对它们进行明智的思考。缺乏对过去的共同记忆,我们就意识不到人类的处境,也意识不到各个地方的男人和女人为应对他们那个时代的问题,并为创造一个更加美好的社会所进行的长期斗争。不用历史的知识装备起来,我们就不知道人们为应对政治、经济和社会生活所采用的种种方式,不知道人们在解决问题时候所采取的方法,不知道人们在战胜他们前进道路上种种障碍时所选择的途径。而意识不到我们国家边界以外的重大事件如何影响了我们自己的历史,我们就难以应对当前全球主义的挑战。

历史还有一个更为深刻、甚至更为根本的重要意义:个人自身的培养。一个人的自觉和自尊为其一生的尊严和完满奠定基础。历史的记忆是自我认同的关键,决定一个人在人类历史、在时代潮流中的位置。

当我们学习美国人民自己的历史时,我们看到的是一部丰富而又极为复杂的历史,这种历史可以回溯到狩猎群从西伯利亚到达美洲的最后一个冰川期。几千年后,这个国家开始了有文字记载的土著美洲人、欧洲人和非洲人聚合在一起的历史,她始终是一个多样化的民族———幅由各种文化、宗教和肤色的马赛克拼成的波澜壮阔的图形。这本书将探讨美国社会是如何呈现出它当前这种形态,并发展出当前这种政体形式的,作为一个民族,我们是如何进行我们的对外交往和管理我们的经济的,作为一个处于团体之内的个体,我们又是如何生活、工作、恋爱、结婚、养家、投票、争论、抗议和斗争,以实现我们的美国梦和美国试验的崇高理想的。

几种使过去成为可以理解的方式,把本书与过去二十年所撰写的大部分教科书区别开来。在叙述像总统选举、外交条约和经济立法这种公共事件的同时,我们还试图把这种广阔的国家叙事,与充盈其中的个人的故事融合在一起。在一个按年代编排的框架之内,我们把美国作为一个国家(Nation)、一个民族(People)和一个社会(Society)的历史编织在一起了。例如,在讨论国家政治事件的时候,我们分析这些事件对州和地方的社会及经济生活的影响。我们不仅描述战争在战场

上和外交家的沙龙里是如何展开的,而且也描述它们在大后方是如何进行的,那里是历史上社会变革的最伟大的发动机。普通美国人与重大事件之间的互动是贯穿全书的主旋律。

总之,我们试图展示历史的"人性",就像人们的日常生活所表露出来的那样。 我们经常采用普通美国人的语言,捕捉那些曾经参与像战争、奴隶制度、工业化 和改革运动这样的重大事件并对其做出反应的真实的人的声音。

本书的目标和主题

我们最主要的目标是为学生提供一种丰富、均衡、并能激发学生思考的美国历史叙述。据此,我们旨在提供这样一种历史描述:它将涵盖居住在这个国家所有地区、处于这个社会所有阶层、所有民族出身和文化背景的所有美国人的生活和经历。它旨在追寻诸多因素——政治的、经济的、技术的、社会的、宗教的、知识的和生物的——之间相互联系的历史,是这些因素在过去四个世纪塑造并重新塑造了美国社会。最后,它意味着鼓励学生思考我们如何继承下来了一种复杂的过去,这种过去既充满了骄人的成就,又存在着棘手的问题。惟有那种适合于一个平民主义国家的历史,才是那种能够激励学生开创一种与历史进行坦诚而透彻的对话的历史。

历史学家不断地修改他们对过去所发生事情的理解。历史学家重新解读历史, 既因为他们在旧题目上发现了新问题,同时也因为新的敏感性刺激着他们去探讨 那些并没有引起以前历史学家兴趣的历史问题。正是这种对历史的持续追问,导 致了对许多原来被忽略和限制了的题目的研究和著述。

通过这本书,我们也想促进学生的课堂讨论,这种讨论可以围绕我们视为美 国历史经验最基本的七个问题来组织。

- 1. 美国人民 从第一批居民,到殖民地时期以奴隶或劳役身份到达的许多群体,直到今天自愿的移民,这个国家是如何被充实起来的?一批又一批新来者(移民?)的浪潮是如何贡献于美国文化的马赛克的?在多大程度上移民群体保持了他们民族、种族和宗教遗产的基础?在过去和今天,文化同化和文化保护之间的张力是如何展示出来的?
- 2. 美国民主的发展 在多大程度上美国人发展起一种稳定、民主的政治制度,这种政治制度在多大程度上灵活到足以应付过去两个世纪发生的大规模的变革?又在多大程度上与我们国家的建国原则是一致的?
- 3. 美国的环境、经济和技术的变化 经济和技术变化是如何影响美国人的日常生活、工作、家庭、组织、休闲、性行为、财富分配和社群关系的? 定居美洲的欧洲人

是如何改变美洲的地貌的?环境因素是如何塑造美国社会的?美国人民是如何改变他们对自然环境的态度和政策的?

- 4. 美国的宗教与改革 美国的宗教在国家的发展中发挥了什么作用? 在我们的历史上,宗教是如何帮助推动或阻碍社会变革的? 无论它们的发源如何多种多样,我们历史上不断重现的变革运动又是如何应付经济、政治和社会问题,以使美国的理想与现实相一致的?
- 5. **美国与世界** 全球性事件和趋势是以什么方式对美国人生活的形式和特征施加影响的? 美国如何影响了世界的其他国家? 在多大程度上, 美国被视为其他民族的楷模? 在多大程度上, 美国被视为对世界其他国家实施干涉主义的救世主? 又在多大程度上, 美国被视为喜好干涉他国事务的扩张主义者?
- 6. **多样性、价值观与美国梦** 在过去的 400 多年历史中,美国人的信仰和价值观是如何变化的?它们是如何因为群体的不同——男性和女性的不同,肤色和文化的不同,地区、宗教、性趋向、年龄和阶级的不同——而有所不同的?

在撰写一部围绕着这些主题的历史时,我们试图传递在所有社会都发挥作用的两种原动力。

首先,我们观察人们不断地适应如工业化和城市化这样的新的发展变化,对于这些变化我们似乎难以控制;但我们也认识到人们并不是被历史陷于无能为力的地步,而是历史最根本的创造者。他们以集体或个人的形式保持着塑造这个他们生存于其中的世界的能力,并因此在相当大的程度上支配着他们自己的人生。

其次,我们强调始终存在于社会的、政治的、经济的和文化的事件中的联系。就像我们的个人生活从来不可能完全整齐划一,一个社会的生活也是一种复杂的并且经常是各种力量、事件和偶发性事故的凌乱组合。在本书里,政治因素与经济因素、科学技术因素和文化因素缠绕在一起,就像由许多股线拧成的一条绳索。

本书的结构

本书的章节被组合成与美国历史主要时段相联系的六个部分。每一部分都提出一个主题,用以帮助突出这一阶段的特征。

每一章都以一个人物故事(American Stories)开篇,我们称之为美国故事,它再现了一个普通的或不太知名的美国人的经历。例如第3章是以对安东尼·约翰逊的生活的描述开始的。他以一个奴隶的身份来到弗吉尼亚,最终设法与他的妻子玛丽一起获得了自由。这个简短的故事引出了该章的整个主题和主要概念。在这个案例中,美国社会白人、黑人和印第安人的种族特点,以及种族奴隶制度的逐步绷紧和17世纪晚期殖民地生活的动荡都被揭示出来了。除此之外,美国故事栏

目还通过一种人性化的叙事吸引学生翻开每一章,它说明历史既是由杰出人物也是由普通人塑造的。在人物故事和显而易见的视觉画面将其从轶事和章节的主体区分开来之后,一段本章概述(美国故事后的粗体文字)把故事与正文连接起来。有三个缘由要求学生认真阅读这些至关重要的转换段落:首先,识别该章的三到四个主题,第二,理解该章的组织结构,第三,观察该章的主题是如何与整本书的布局谋篇相联系的。

我们也着眼于在其他方面为学生的学习过程创造便利条件。本书的每一章都以教育学的特征结束,以巩固和扩大叙事。大事记回顾这一章所叙述的主要事件和发展变化。本章小结简要归纳这一章中详细阐释过的主要概念和演变,并发挥与下一章连接起来的桥梁作用。推荐读物(Recommended Readings)栏目为进一步的学习或研究提供了附加的资源;带有评注的小说和电影精选(Fiction and Film)也包括在推荐读物内。最后,一组特殊的带有评注的推荐网址,美国历史在线(Discovering U.S. History Online),为学生提供了有关该章主题的相关的网络资源。此外,每一章都选取了与相关叙事有明确联系的地图、数据和表格来充实文字内容。

加里・纳什朱莉・罗伊・杰弗里

美国历史的生动解读

刘德斌 (《美国人民》中文译者)

由加里·纳什(Gary B. Nash)和朱莉·罗伊·杰弗里(Julie Roy Jeffrey)等编著的《美国人民:创建一个国家和一种社会》(以下简称《美国人民》)是一部非常特别的美国历史教科书。无论你受过多少教育,学习过什么专业,了解多少美国历史,对历史的美国和现实的美国喜欢与否,你都会一下子就被这本书所吸引,被这本书娓娓道来的叙事风格,丰富多彩的文献举要,乃至于书里跌宕起伏的个人命运和把美国历史与古代非洲历史衔接起来的写作手法所吸引,不经意间走进一种历史场景,了解到许多通俗易懂但又不失新鲜、深刻的美国历史知识。读完之后,你可能会不由自主地发出一声感叹:啊,原来历史教科书也可以这样写!确实,历史教科书应该和历史本身一样丰富多彩,应该和现实一样生动鲜活。如果说历史学家应该成为搭建历史和现实之间桥梁的工程师,那么我认为《美国人民》的作者做到了这一点。这或许就是北京大学出版社愿意把她翻译成中文呈现给中国读者的原因所在,也是这本美国历史教科书最重要的特色和价值之所在。

美国无疑是当今世界上最重要的国家之一,是影响世界经济、政治乃至文化走势的一个基本因素。无论你身居发达的都市,还是劳作于偏远的乡村,你都不可避免地要和美国的影响打交道。从好莱坞电影到微软视窗,从麦当劳快餐到SCI引文检索,从波音飞机的制造到因特网的发明,从行销世界每一个角落的可口可乐到吸引全世界目光的 NBA 赛场,从美国大兵喋血巴格达街头到纳斯达克指数的起起落落,美国的产品、信息和影响无所不在。这种情况就使美国历史教科书的读者群要比其他国家历史教科书的读者群大许多。换言之,美国历史教科书不仅是给学习历史的大学生写的,也应该面向社会各界读者。在中国改革开放即将进入第三十个年头的今天,在中美之间的交流、合作和冲突发展到如此之广、之深、之频的今天,中国人主要还是通过即时的新闻报道来了解美国的,通过好莱坞的电影来形成美国印象的,这就难免使我们对美国的认识产生误差。中国需要一本生动和完整地讲述美国历史的作品。《美国人民》的翻译和出版恰恰可以填补这样一项空白。她不仅为从事美国历史学习和研究的高校师生提供了一个参考教材,同时也为高校以外的社会各界的读者提供了一种对美国历史通俗而系统的解读。

首先,《美国人民》有非常强的可读性。这种可读性表现在许多方面。

《美国人民》的每一章大都从一个普通人或一个普通家庭的遭遇开始,即书中的"美国故事"。作者把美利坚人个人的遭遇与美国历史的大背景结合在一起,一下子就增强了历史教科书的鲜活性和真实感,缩短了历史与现实的距离。这些故事的主人公有从欧洲来到美洲的白人移民,有印第安土著,也有从非洲被贩卖到美洲的黑人奴隶,有传教士,有士兵,有蓝领工人家庭的悲惨遭遇,也有白领丽人价值观的转向过程。美国历史中的各色人都在这本书里登场,他们的身份和遭遇就是美国历史变迁的缩影。

《美国人民》更以丰富多彩的图表阐释和变化多样的文献举要使她与过去 20 多年来美国所出版的美国历史教科书区别开来。从家庭账簿、民间故事、日记、海报、征兵名单、民意测验报告,到广告、流行音乐、服饰、人口普查报表和照片,这些专业历史学家所使用的多种形式的"原始材料",都在这本历史教科书的不同章节里恰到好处地运用起来。这就脱离了多数历史教科书单纯的文字表达手法,而以一种更为丰富多彩的写作形式展现在读者面前。应该承认,这种表现手法,远远比历史学家单纯的文字描述——无论历史学家能够怎样妙笔生花——更吸引人,而许多历史情景也是文字形式难以充分表达出来的。一篇日记所展示出来的当时美国人的内心深处的喜怒哀乐,对读者来说,比历史学家的描述更为质朴和真实。一幅 19世纪美国黑人奴隶的照片——他们的装束、神态、包括他们的眼神以及照片的背景——所能折射出来的当年美国黑人奴隶生活的真实场景,胜过历史学家的千言万语。

《美国人民》的作者还选取了部分立意深刻的绘画作品(多为油画),置放于各章的标题下面以及内容当中,从而更为形象地刻画和渲染了该章的主题和时代背景。如第 16 章标题下的油画《原主人的拜访》,就非常形象地展示了内战结束后一个白人奴隶主和自己原来的奴隶相见时尴尬而又复杂的场景。再如第 30 章的标题之下是一张里根竞选总统时的张贴画:"选举里根,让我们使美国重振雄风",恰到好处地揭示了 1980 年代,伴随着里根的当选,保守主义卷土重来,美国摆脱了越南战争综合症的困扰,整个内外政策都发生重大变化的时代特性。

除了借用这些"史料"作为表现手法,并向读者推荐相关的美国历史作品外,作者还专门设计了一个"美国历史在线",向读者推荐了大量有关美国历史的网上资源,以供读者自己进一步探索。许多历史学家都认为,历史学从IT革命中获益最大,它使历史学家从繁重、费时的资料检索劳动中解脱出来,大大加快了历史研究的工作进程,从而正在带来一场史学研究手段和方法的革命。《美国人民》的作者充分利用网络资源的优势,为读者在文本教材的基础上,挖掘更为广阔的历史资源提供了基本的线索。

总之,《美国人民》的表现手法丰富多彩,生动活泼,克服了传统历史教科书

的古板、单调和局限,也没有说教的口吻,使阅读历史成为一种乐趣。 这是《美国人民》能够畅销美国,几次再版,并为广大读者所欢迎的首要因素。

第二,《美国人民》更为引人注目的是**作者改变了对美国历史起源的解读方式**,与更为久远的非洲历史衔接起来。

第1章的题目是"古代美洲与非洲",讲述1492年前美洲的原住民和欧洲人人侵前夕的古代非洲世界。人们通常理解的美国历史,一般是从英国人在北美建立英属殖民地开始的,印第安人的遭遇在美国历史中只是个陪衬,更没有把欧洲人到达前夕的非洲历史与美国历史的起源直接地联系起来。白人移民在北美蛮荒之地的披荆斩棘,"五月花号公约"精神的奠立,等等,这些都是多数美国历史教科书所津津乐道的故事,也是美国历史的起点。《美国人民》的独特之处在于通过这样一种衔接延伸了美国的历史,深化了美国历史的根源,把美国历史与更为古老的世界历史联系在一起,从而使读者愈发感觉到美国历史是世界历史运动的一部分,当代美国文化的多元性早在美国建国之前就已经出现了。作者的这种写作手法抬高了非洲裔美国人和美洲原住民在构建美国历史过程中的地位和作用,相对削弱了欧洲白人移民的影响。这种写法在美国历史教科书中还不多见,可谓独树一帜,尽管强调美国历史的形成是与全球史的开始联系在一起的学者大有人在。

实际上,作者的这种改变与1994年推出并在美国引起轩然大波的《美国历史教学标准》(以下简称《标准》)的基本精神相一致。本书的第一主编加里·纳什就是加州大学洛杉矶分校全国中小学历史教学中心(NCHS)主任,也是授命牵头组织制定美国《全国历史教学标准》(the National History Standards Project,包括《美国历史教学标准》)的负责人。虽然《标准》出台后"引发美国历史上时间最长、程度最激烈的关于美国历史的辩论",并且被迫作了修改,但通观《美国人民》全书,读者会发现主编还是按照当年他所负责制定的《标准》来解读美国史的。对中国读者来说,也不失为领略一种新的解读美国起源视角的机会。本书的观点如果能够经受住推敲,无疑提升了美国历史的世界历史意义。

第三,**作者对美国历史的褒贬有度**,进一步增强了这部历史教科书的说服力和 吸引力。

同任何一个国家或民族的历史一样,美国历史中有许多令美国人骄傲的成就,也有许多令美国人汗颜的失败乃至难以示人的耻辱。一部好的历史教科书,应该实事求是地把这两个方面都展示给读者,在促动国民的自豪感和自信心的同时,也对自己国家的历史提供一种反思和批判,这样这个国家和民族才能够不断地吸取教训,不断地有所进步。《美国人民》没有刻意地渲染美国的历史成就,也没有隐瞒美国历史上的污点,而是把美国历史上的艰难曲折比较真实地刻画出来。举例说,今天的读者很难相信,如此富裕的美国在一百多年前竟有 1/5 的 10—14 岁的儿童都不得不出来工作养家。《美国人民》对 19 世纪工业革命时代美国人民的遭遇的描

写,让读者真切地感受到今日美国的发达和富裕来之不易。《美国人民》对美国白人对印第安人的迫害和对白人长期保有黑人奴隶制度的展示,更让人们了解到,今天动辄以"人权"政策攻击其他国家的美国,在历史上曾经是对有色人种人权的集体践踏者,提醒今日善良之美国人哪里是美国历史上和精神上永远的伤和痛。

《美国人民》的作者队伍集中了几位在教学和研究两个领域都有卓越建树的历史学 家。主编加里・纳什教授 1964 年毕业于普林斯顿大学, 现在是美国加州大学洛杉 矶分校历史系教授。他除了在殖民地和革命时代的教学和研究方面卓有建树外, 还是一系列与美国历史教学和研究有关的重要学术组织的领导人或者发起者。他 曾经是"美国历史学家组织"(OAH)的主席,也是美国全国历史教育协会的发起者 和副主席。作为1992—1996年《全国历史教学标准》项目的主席之一,他在1994 一1998年围绕《标准》的大辩论中处于漩涡的中心。不仅有人批评他所主持制定的 《标准》迎合多元文化主义的思潮,贬低了欧洲文明在构建美国历史中的作用,而 且还有人谴责《标准》过多地渲染了美国的阴暗面。美国参议院甚至专门通过决议, 反对采用纳什教授牵头制定的《标准》。当然,也有许多学术界人士支持纳什教授 在美国起源问题上的多元主义文化主张。无疑, 纳什教授是美国历史教育改革中 的先锋人物。围绕《标准》展开的大辩论过去之后,美国各州中小学的历史教学都或 多或少地吸纳《标准》所坚持的历史观点和教学方法。这本英文版出版于 2004 年的 第6版《美国人民》是为大学历史学科撰写的教材,但也集中体现了纳什教授的美 国史观和解读方法。按照他在前言中所说,这本书的主要目标是为学生提供一种 "丰富、均衡、并能促进学生思考的美国历史叙述",这种叙述包括居住在这个国 家所有地区、居于这个社会各个阶层的各种民族出身和文化背景的美国人的生命 和经历。这本书还要终止对历史有用论的怀疑,激励学生开创一种与历史进行坦 诚而透彻的对话的历史。作为一个历史教育家,他还特别强调了历史在个人自身 培养方面的重要作用,认为一个人的自觉和自尊为其一生的尊严和完满实现奠定 基础。总之,通过他所参与制定的《标准》和这本《美国人民》的历史教科书,我们 看到他所追求的是:通过将非洲文明和美洲印第安土著文明与欧洲文明并列为美国起 源的方法,凸显美国文化的"马赛克"现象和诸多社会矛盾产生和发展的根源,为美国 学生应对今日美国愈加多元化的社会现实,乃至应对整个国际社会愈益多元化的现实 提供心理或精神准备。由此,不管遭到多少批评和谴责, 纳什教授不失为一位对美 国的前途和命运富有高度责任感的杰出历史教育家。

本书的其他作者也都是在全美都享有盛誉的教师: 弗雷德里克曾于 2000 年被"美国历史学会"(AHA) 授予尤金・埃舍尔优秀教学奖 (the Eugene Asher Award for Excellence in Teaching); 约翰・豪 (John R. How) 从耶鲁大学获得博士学位,是明尼苏达大学伍德罗・威尔逊研究生奖学金、约翰・史密斯・古根汉姆奖学金

和查尔斯·沃伦美国历史研究中心研究基金的获得者, 艾伦·戴维斯(Allen F. Davis)是《美国历史中的冲突与一致》的主编, 曾经担任美国学会(the American Studies Association)的主席。

毋庸讳言,《美国人民》不仅给我们展示了一幅生动的美国历史画卷,同时也为我们展示了一支优秀的美国历史教学队伍,他们所创作的历史教科书为我们中国学者编写中国的历史教科书提供了非常有益的借鉴。

认识一个国家,应该从了解这个国家的历史开始。对于美国历史,中国人经常提出的问题是:为什么美国能够在这样短的时间内从彼此独立的 13 个英属殖民地凝结为一个民族国家并成长为超级大国?为什么这样一个如此之多的种族、肤色和宗教拼凑在一起的"马赛克"没有沦为一盘散沙,而是一直保持着凝聚力和向心力?回答这些问题的一些耳熟能详的解释包括:美国"得天独厚的地理条件并远离欧洲是非之地"、"没有中世纪的废墟挡路"、"后发国家优势"、"欧洲列强在两次世界大战中的衰落"和"'山颠之城'的精神追求",等等。但《美国人民》一书并没有提供类似的解释或答案,而是不断地向学生提出问题使其思考。相信读过本书之后,中国读者会得出许多自己的解释或答案。

美国与中国的关系是两种历史经历的相遇。东方与西方,古老与年轻,封闭与开放,孔子与耶稣,一元与多元,集体与个人,等等,中国和美国似乎正是两个极端的例子。年轻的美利坚共和国崛起的过程正是古老的中华帝国走向衰落的过程。但是现在,这个过程已经过去了。中国正在崛起,正在以一种新的精神面貌出现在世界舞台上。占据世界头号强国一个世纪之久的美国,正在以一种复杂而又忧虑的目光注视着中国的崛起。

无疑,中美之间正在重新确认自己的历史定位。而作为"现代化进程中"的中国,一定会在已经"后现代"了的美国的历史经历中学到许多经验和教训。这本书不仅会为中国读者了解美国的历史提供一种完整的介绍和阐释,同时也会促进中国读者的许多历史反思。同时,当我们掩卷沉思的时候,我们也会想,是否曾经或将会给美国人和其他国家的读者也提供一本生动而又深刻的中国历史教科书呢?对自己国家或世界历史的解读能力也是一个国家文化力的表现形式。中国正在吸引着全世界的目光,全世界都在享受着中国人制造的物美价廉的产品,但真正了解中国的历史与现实的人并不多。中国人已经把自己深深地融入这个世界之中,但或许中国人自己还没有做好解释自己、在世界人民的心中为自己的国家塑造一种生动而又丰富的国家形象的准备。在这方面,一本优秀的历史教科书的影响力可能是金钱、商品乃至飞机大炮所替代不了的。

The Yoruba people of West Africa have an old saying: "However far the stream flows, it never forgets its source." Why, we wonder, do such ancient societies as the Yoruba find history so important, while modern American students question its relevance? This book aims to end such skepticism about the usefulness of history.

As we begin the twenty-first century in an ethnically and culturally diverse society caught up in an interdependent global system, history is of central importance in preparing us to exercise our rights and responsibilities as a free people. Studying history cannot make good citizens, but without a knowledge of history, we cannot understand the choices before us and think wisely about them. Lacking a collective memory of the past, we lapse into a kind of amnesia, unaware of the human condition and the long struggles of men and women everywhere to deal with the problems of their day and to create a better society. Unfurnished with historical knowledge, we deprive ourselves of knowing about the huge range of approaches people have taken to political, economic, and social life; to solving problems; and to surmounting the obstacles in their way.

History has a deeper, even more fundamental importance: the cultivation of the private person whose self-knowledge and self-respect provide the foundation for a life of dignity and fulfillment. Historical memory is the key to self-identity: to seeing one's place in the long stream of time, in the story of humankind.

When we study our own history, we see a rich and extraordinarily complex human story. This country, whose written history began with a convergence of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans, has always been a nation of diverse peoples—a magnificent mosaic of cultures, religions, and skin shades. This book explores how American society assumed its present shape and developed its present forms of government; how as a nation we have conducted our foreign affairs and managed our economy; how science and technology and religion and reform have changed our lives; how as individuals and in groups we have lived, worked, loved, married, raised families, voted, argued, protested, and struggled to fulfill our dreams and the noble ideals of the American experiment.

Several ways of making the past understandable distinguish this book from traditional textbooks. The coverage of public events such as presidential elections, diplomatic treaties, and economic legislation is integrated with the private human stories that pervade them. Within a chronological framework, we have woven together our history as a nation, as a people, and as a society. When, for example, national political events are discussed, we analyze their impact on social and economic life at the state and local levels. Wars are described not only as they unfolded on the battlefield and in the salons of diplomats but also on the home front, where they have been history's greatest motor of social change. The interaction of ordinary and extraordinary Americans runs as a theme throughout this book.

Above all, we have tried to show the "humanness" of our history as it is revealed in people's everyday lives. Throughout these pages, we have often used the words of unnoticed Americans to capture the authentic human voices of those who participated in and responded to epic events such as war, slavery, industrialization, and reform movements.

GOALS AND THEMES OF THE BOOK

Our primary goal is to provide students with a rich, balanced, and thought-provoking treatment of the American past. By this 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. It also means a history that seeks connections between the many factors—political, economic, technological, social, religious, intellectual, and biological—that have molded and remolded American society over four centuries. Finally, it means a history that encourages students to think about how we have all inherited a complex past filled with both notable achievements and thorny problems. The only history befitting a democratic nation is one that inspires students to initiate a frank and searching dialogue with their past.

To speak of a dialogue about the past presumes that history is interpretive rather than an agreed-upon account of what happened in the past and why history unfolded as it did. Students should understand that historians are continually reinterpreting the past. New interpretations may result from the discovery of new evidence, but more often they emerge because historians reevaluate old evidence in the light of new ideas that spring from the times in which they write and from their personal views of the world.

Through this book, we also hope to promote class discussions, which can be organized around six recurring themes basic to the American historical experience:

- 1. The peopling of America How has this nation been peopled, from the first inhabitants to the many groups that arrived in slavery or servitude during the colonial period to the voluntary immigrants of today? How have these waves of newcomers contributed to and reshaped the American cultural mosaic? To what extent have different immigrant groups both assimilated into American culture and also preserved elements of their ethnic, racial, and religious heritages? How have the tensions between cultural assimilation and cultural preservation been played out, in the past and today?
- 2. The development of American democracy To what extent have Americans developed a stable, democratic political system flexible enough to address the wholesale changes occurring in the last two centuries? To what degree has this political system been consistent with the principles of our nation's founding?
- 3. Environmental, economic, and technological change How have environmental, economic, scientific, and technological changes affected the American landscape, attitudes toward nature, work, family life, leisure, sexual behavior, the division of wealth, and community relations in the United States?
- 4. Religion and reform in American life What role has American religion played in the development of the nation? How have religion and religious values affected social change in our history? Whatever their varied sources, how have the recurring reform movements in our history dealt with economic, political, and social problems in attempting to square the ideals and realities of American life?
- 5. America and the world In what ways have global events and trends had an impact on the shape and character of American life? How has the United States affected the rest of the world? To what extent has the United States

6. Diversity, values, and American dreams In the pursuit of American dreams, how have American beliefs and values changed over time? How have they varied between different groups: women and men; Americans of many colors and cultures; people of different regions, religions, sexual orientations, ages, and classes?

In writing a history that revolves around these themes, we have tried to convey two dynamics that operate in all societies. First, we observe people continuously adjusting to new developments, such as industrialization and urbanization, over which they seemingly have little control; we realize that people are not paralyzed by history but are the fundamental creators of it. They retain the ability, individually and collectively, to shape the world in which they live and thus in considerable degree to control their own lives. Second, we emphasize the connections that always exist among social, political, economic, and cultural events.

STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

The chapters of this book are grouped into six parts that relate to major periods in American history. The titles for each part suggest a major theme that helps to characterize the period.

Each chapter has a clear structure, beginning with a chapter outline and then a personal story, called *American Stories*, recalling the experience of an ordinary or lesser-known American. Chapter 3, for example, is introduced with an account of the life of Anthony Johnson, who came to Virginia as a slave but who along with his wife, Mary, managed to gain his freedom. This brief anecdote introduces the overarching themes and major concepts of the chapter, in this case the tri-racial character of American society, the gradual tightening of racial slavery, and the instability of late seventeenth century colonial life. In addition, *American Stories* launches the chapter by engaging the student with a human account, suggesting that history was shaped by ordinary as well as extraordinary people. Following the personal story and easily identifiable by its visual separation from the anecdote and the body of the chapter, a *brief chapter overview* links the story and its themes to the text.

We aim to facilitate an exciting engagement with history for students in other ways as well. Every chapter ends with pedagogical features to reinforce and expand the presentation. A timeline reviews the major events and developments covered in the chapter. The conclusion briefly summarizes the chapter's main concepts and developments, revisits the individual described in American Stories, and serves as a bridge to the following chapter. Questions for Review and Reflection provide an opportunity to think about the chapter's major themes and their relation to the larger questions the text raises. An annotated section of suggested Web sites, Discovering U.S. History Online, offers students electronic resources relating to chapter content and themes and suggestions for further reading. Fiction and Film provides an annotated selection of historical novels and films. In addition, each map, figure, and table has been chosen to relate clearly to the narrative. Captions are specially written to help students understand and interpret these visual materials.

THE CONCISE SIXTH EDITION

This Concise Sixth Edition is condensed from the very successful comprehensive Seventh Edition of The American People, with its balance of political, social, and economic history. While we have eliminated detail and extra examples and have compressed the text, we have retained the interpretive connections and the "humanness" of history—the presentation of history as revealed through the lives of ordinary as well as extraordinary Americans and the interplay of social and political factors.

Continued Features

The Concise Sixth Edition continues the format and more compact size of the previous brief editions. The four-color design enhances the value of the maps and graphs and gives the book a vibrant appearance. This makes the book accessible,

easy to read, and convenient for students to carry to and from class.

This edition contains one of the most popular features of *The American People*: the two-page sections entitled Recovering the Past. The RTPs, as the authors affectionately call them, introduce students to the fascinating variety of evidence ranging from novels, political cartoons, and diaries to houses and popular music—that historians have learned to employ in reconstructing the past. Each RTP gives basic information about the source and its use by historians and then raises questions—called Reflecting on the Past—for students to consider as they study the example reproduced for their inspection.

In this edition, we have provided an international framework so students will think across international boundaries and understand the ways in which our history intersects with the world. Rather than developing a separate discussion of global events, we have woven an international narrative into our analysis of the American past. Chapter 13, for example, discusses the international context for American expansionism. Many maps underscore the international dimension of the text.

New Features

New to this edition and included in each section of the textbook are brief passages or, on occasion, illustrations such as posters or cartoons from non-Americans, commenting on How Others See Us. This feature is in keeping with our aim of putting American history into a global context and illustrating that those outside the United States (and often the "outsiders" within) sometimes know us better than we know ourselves.

Also new in the text are review questions at the end of each chapter. These questions not only help students identify, recall, and think about the major themes of the chapter but also encourage them to connect chapter themes to the book's large themes and questions.

Chapter Changes

Chapter-by-chapter changes include the following:

• Chapter 3 contains the new feature, How Others See Us. In this case, the commentator is a traveler who describes New England, including its social structure and the presence of witches.

• Chapter 4 also includes How Others See Us. Here a visitor analyzes Pennsyl-

- vania and includes his belief that exposure to British officers has improved
- Chapter 7 reveals the attitudes of several English commentators after the Revolution in *How Others See Us.*
- Chapter 9 has a new RTP focusing on federal census returns and what they can reveal. The chapter also contains insightful comments from an Englishwoman visiting the United States early in the nineteenth century for the feature How Others See Us.
- Chapter 10 contains selections from Alexis de Tocqueville's visit to the United States in 1830, with his impression of American agriculture for How Others See Us.
- Chapter 13 features the comments of a Mexican military officer as he observed American settlers in Texas in the feature How Others See Us.
- Chapter 17 shows the Indian as outside observer in How Others See Us. Here Red Cloud's comments to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in 1870 have been included.
- Chapter 18 provides a different angle to understanding American industrial development with the comments of an English intellectual who argued that American businessmen worked too hard. His comments appear in How Others See Us.
- Chapter 23 contains How Others See Us that provides the perspective of an Italian student who studied at Columbia University in the 1920s.
- Chapter 24 has a new introductory vignette that focuses on how young people viewed the Great Depression and the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- · Chapter 25's How Others See Us feature shows the experience of a young Japanese high school student who experienced the atom bomb explosion at Hiroshima.
- Chapter 27 uses a West German poster on the Marshall Plan for How Others See Us.
- Chapter 29 also uses posters, in this case French and German posters during the Vietnam War, for How Others See Us.
- Chapter 31 takes the text up through the midterm elections of 2006 and provides coverage of the Iraq War. In addition, it also contains How Others See Us with the views of a European opponent to that war.

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 necessary to make teaching and learning enjoyable and rewarding. The reader will be the judge of our success. We welcome your comments.

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