

Preface

New to This Edition

This two-volume *Introduction to American History* text has undergone a number of revisions and been updated to 2022 in an effort to create a more comprehensive and readable text for students. The content within a number of chapters has been rearranged so that discussions of culture follow discussions of major events, rather than vice versa and some redundancy has been eliminated. The discussion of Puritans and Puritanism has been altered and rearranged and the histories of American women and ethnic minorities have been expanded. New key terms match the style of the previous edition; they are in bold in the body text so that they are easier to find, and definitions of the key terms appear on the outside margins of the pages. Bibliographies have been updated with new sources so that readers know where the material is coming from and where to go for further reading.

New information has been added throughout the texts and many of the maps have been redesigned and captioned to make them easier to read and understand. In Volume I, additional information has been added on various military maneuvers, including the Battles of Horseshoe Bend and New Orleans. The brief biography of Abraham Lincoln, his reelection, and assassination are now covered in the chapter on the Civil War so that courses that end with the Civil War (rather than Reconstruction) will have the needed material. Discussions of the black American experience, Asian American experience, and Hispanic American experience throughout American history have been expanded. Cuban immigration and the Cuban American experience have been added, including Cuban cigar manufacturing. The Civil War soldier experiences of these ethnic groups have been expanded.

Volume II now begins with Emancipation and Reconstruction as “Chapter 15,” so as to preserve continuity from Volume I. The discussions of culture in the Gilded Age, Jazz Age, and cold war eras now follow the discussion of major events and international politics in these epochs. Similarly, the culture shift that occurred between 1963 and 1980 now follows the discussion of politics and events for the time period. New information in Volume II covers Mexican immigration and Hispanic American experiences; expanded coverage of segregation and violence against black Americans; expanded coverage of the Asian American experience; and the roles of Asian Americans, African Americans, and Hispanic Americans during America’s wars since the Civil War. The long African American struggle for Civil Rights is covered in greater detail as is the labor movement among California’s Hispanic agricultural workers. The second term of the Obama administration has been added along with discussions of social unrest and gun violence in the twenty-first century, including the Black Lives Matter movement, and the conservative counter-movements. An entire chapter is dedicated to the election of President Donald Trump, the events that occurred during his administration, and his defeat in the 2020 election followed by his contesting of the election results, culminating with the Capitol riot on January 6, 2021. Discussions of the rise of social media as a spreader of both information and misinformation are included in the context of the 2020 election and social unrest, including violence against black people by police, the death of George Floyd, and the contention of Trump and his supporters that the 2020 election was stolen. Foreign policy during Obama’s second term and Trump’s presidency are discussed, including tension between Russia and Ukraine.

The final result is a more readable and understandable text that better meets the needs of students in the twenty-first century.



Pedagogical Features

The text contains a number of pedagogical features that are intended to stimulate student interest and enhance learning.

Chapter Openers

Each chapter begins with a chapter opener that is intended not only to pique the reader's attention but also preview the topics to be discussed in the chapter and provide insight into the chapter's themes.

Chapter Summaries

At the end of each chapter is a chapter summary that provides a concise summary of the major events and themes covered in that chapter.

Timelines

Accompanying the chapter summaries are timelines that provide a chronology of the key events covered in each chapter designed to help students place the events in their proper context.

Key Terms

Each chapter is also followed by a list of key terms—each with a concise definition provided to help students understand the important people, places, and events, as well as why they are considered important. The key terms are presented in bold in the body text and their definitions appear in the outside margins of the pages.

Pop Quizzes

A pop quiz is included at the end of each chapter to help students review the material and cognitively assemble the material in a manageable way.

Bibliographies

Selected bibliographies are included at the end of each chapter to help students know where the material comes from and to assist them if they desire to pursue further reading.

Graphic Images

This book may contain potentially offensive, graphic, or violent images that could be disturbing to some readers. Historical content in textbooks may sometimes reflect outdated, disrespectful, and/or biased language, viewpoints and opinions. These materials are presented for their historical significance and do not express the beliefs or opinions of the authors or BVT Publishing.