AMERICA
PAST AND PRESENT

VOLUME 2: SINCE 1865
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America Past and Present, Brief Eighth Edition, is derived from the full-length America Past and Present, Ninth Edition. The Brief Eighth Edition shares the goal of its parent text: to present a clear, relevant, and balanced history of the United States as an unfolding story of national development, from the days of the earliest inhabitants to the present. The goal of the abridgement is to produce a condensation true to the original in all its dimensions—a miniaturized replica or bonsai, as it were—retaining the style and tone, and the interpretations, with their nuances and subtleties intact. This Brief Eighth Edition contains about two-thirds of the text of the full-length book, more than one-half of the maps, charts, and figures, and a commensurate proportion of the illustration program.

What's New to This Edition

In this edition, we have reviewed each chapter carefully to take account of recent scholarly work, to offer new perspectives, and to sharpen the analysis and the prose. In many cases, we have adopted the suggestions offered by those who used the previous editions in their classrooms.

Throughout this edition, as in previous editions, we pay particular attention to the roles that women and minority groups have played in the development of American society and the American nation. These people appear throughout the text, not as witnesses to the historical narrative but as principal actors in its evolution. New and expanded material in this edition includes the following:

- Chapter 9 has a new section on urbanization.
- Chapter 13 includes streamlined discussions and coverage of expansionism and foreign policy.
- Chapter 32 has been extended to include events of George W. Bush's second term, notably developments in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the global financial crisis that began in 2007, and the 2008 election of Barack Obama.

America Past and Present, Brief Eighth Edition, is fully integrated with MyHistoryLab, Pearson’s premium website for U.S. history. For more information, or to view a demonstration, please see www.myhistorylab.com.

Approach and Themes

Presenting American history as the story of a nation in flux, America Past and Present, Brief Eighth Edition, goes beyond recounting the major events that have helped to shape the nation—the wars fought, the presidents elected, the treaties signed. The impact of change on human lives adds a vital dimension to the understanding of history. How did the American Revolution affect the lives of ordinary citizens? What was it like for both blacks and whites to live in a plantation society? How did the shift from an agrarian to an industrial economy affect men and women alike? What impact did technology, in the form of the automobile and the computer, have on patterns of life in the twentieth century? As the narrative explores answers to these and other questions, it blends the excitement and drama of the American experience with insights about the social, political, economic, and cultural issues that underlie it.

America Past and Present, Brief Eighth Edition, espouses no particular ideology or point of view; instead the text encourages readers to explore the American past and reach their own conclusions about its significance in their lives. And yet the text does not avoid examining controversial issues but seeks to offer balanced and reasoned judgments on such morally charged subjects as the nature of slavery and the use of nuclear weapons. Although history may rarely repeat itself, the story of the American past is relevant to the problems and dilemmas facing the American nation and the American people today.

Structure and Features

The structure and features of the book are intended to stimulate student interest and to reinforce learning. Each chapter begins with a vignette that introduces the chapter’s themes and previews the topics to be discussed. The chapter chronology serves as a summary of the key events covered in the chapter. The recommended readings and suggested websites are sources students can consult for further information on many topics and have been moved to MyHistoryLab.com for easier reference. Key terms, highlighted in boldface type in the chapter text, are defined in context and in the end-of-text glossary. Seven essays entitled “We Americans” appear in the text, each focusing on some aspect of diversity or multiculturalism in America. Some of the “We Americans” essays explore the roles different ethnic groups have played in shaping the nation; others examine change and constancy in the American population and national ethos. The seven “We Americans” essays are as follows:

- Chapter 7, “Counting the People: The Federal Census of 1790”
- Chapter 11, “Women of Southern Households”
- Chapter 13, “Hispanic America After 1848: A Case Study in Majority Rule”
- Chapter 14, “The Irish in Boston, 1845–1865”
Preface

Chapter 17, “Blacks in Blue: The Buffalo Soldiers in the West”
Chapter 19, “Ellis Island: Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears”
Chapter 30, “Unintended Consequences: The Second Great Migration”

Each “We Americans” essay now includes new “Questions for Discussion” to spark class discussion or to prompt writing assignments.

A Look at the Past
A second feature in America Past and Present, Brief Eighth Edition, is “A Look at the Past.” These representations of material culture artifacts show students some of the variety of materials that historians use to learn about and interpret the past. Captions with the photographs include critical thinking questions that encourage students to reflect on the historical purpose and significance of the object pictured.

Visual Program
The full-color map program has been completely redesigned, making this edition richer and more vibrant. The illustration program, bearing directly on the narrative, advances and expands the themes, provides elaboration and contrast, tells more of the story, and generally adds another dimension of learning.

MyHistoryLab offers instructors and students the best multimedia solutions in one easy-to-use place. This state-of-the-art interactive instructional solution for the American history course is organized according to the contents of America Past and Present, Brief Eighth Edition. MyHistoryLab is designed to be used as either a supplement to a traditional lecture course, or to administer a completely online course. MyHistoryLab provides helpful tips, review materials, and activities to make the study of history a successful and enjoyable learning experience. MyHistoryLab includes the following features:

- Pre-Test and Post-Test Quizzes and Individualized Study Plan
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MyHistoryLab includes a complete Pearson e-Text of the book where you can highlight and take notes in the margins; an automated grading of chapter-by-chapter quizzes, practice tests, and assignments; a History Bookshelf where you can read, download, or print 100 commonly assigned works like Thomas Paine's Common Sense or Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle; and more. For more information, or to view a demonstration, please see www.myhistorylab.com.
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T he authors are also most grateful to our consultants and reviewers whose thoughtful and constructive work contributed greatly to this edition. Their many helpful suggestions led to significant improvements in the final product.

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This book owes much to the many conscientious historians who reviewed previous editions and offered valuable suggestions that led to many improvements in the text. We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of the following:

Frank W. Abbott, University of Houston; Joseph L. Adams, St. Louis Community College at Meramec; Frank Alduino, Anne Arundel Community College; Kenneth G. Alfers, Mountain View College; Elizabeth Ansnes, San Jose State University; Thomas Archdeacon, University of Wisconsin; James Axtell, College of William and Mary; Kenneth R. Bain, Northwestern University; James Banks, Cuyahoga Community College; Lois W. Banner, Hamilton College; Donald Scott Barton, East Central University; David Bernstein, California State University, Long Beach; Chad Berry, Maryville College; Kent Blaser, Wayne State College; Eric J. Bolsterli, University of Texas at Arlington; James D. Border, Berkshire Community College; Alexander O. Boulton, Villa Julie College; Mary C. Brennan, Ohio State University; Blanche Brick, Blinn College; Daniel Patrick Brown, Moorpark College; Thomas Camfield, Sam Houston State University; Clayborne Carson, Stanford University; Kathleen S. Carter, High Point University; Raphael Cassimere, Jr., University of New Orleans; Francis Coan, Central Connecticut State University; Charles L. Cohen, University of Wisconsin; Jerald Combs, San Francisco State University; John Cooper, University of Wisconsin; Yvonne Sutton Cornelius, Nashville State Community College; Nancy F. Cott, Yale University; Virginia Crane, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh; Edward R. Crowther, Adams State University; James C. Curtis, University of Delaware; Roger P. Davis, University of Nebraska at Kearney; Patricia Norred Derr, Kutztown University; Bruce J. Dierenfield, Canisius College; Charles Douglass, Florida Community College at Jacksonville; Thomas Dublin, State University of New York at Binghamton; Perry R. Duis, University of Illinois at Chicago; Richard Ellis, State University of New York at Buffalo; John P. Fazz, Chattanooga State Technical Community College; James E. Fell, Jr., University of Colorado, Denver; Eric Foner, Columbia University; Stephen Foster, Northern Illinois University; William W. Freehling, Johns Hopkins University; Fred E. Freidel, Bellevue Community College; Richard Frey, Southern Oregon State College; Gary W. Gallagher, Pennsylvania State University; Sara E. Gallaway, Oxnard College; Don R. Gerlach, University of Akron; August W. Giebelhaus, Georgia Institute of Technology; Louis S. Gomolak, Southwest Texas State University; Lewis L. Gould, University of Texas; Lawrence Grear, Langston University; Richard C. Haney, University of Wisconsin–Whitewater; George Harrison, Jones County Junior College; Edward F. Hass, Wright State University; Tim Heinrichs, Bellevue Community College; Mary Ann Heiss, Kent State University; Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Sam Houston State University; Sondra Herman, De Anza Community College; Wallace Hettle, University of Northern Iowa; Anne Hickling, San Jose City College; James Hollingsworth, Pasco-Hernando Community College; Randolf Hopkins, Moorpark College; Brian Hosmer, University of Delaware; John R.
Acknowledgments

Each author received aid and encouragement from many colleagues, friends, and family members. T. H. Breen thanks Strother Roberts, Jr., for his energetic and insightful assistance during every stage of the revision process. Seth Cotlar and Christopher Hodson also made welcome contributions to the new edition. Hal Williams extends thanks to Linda, Lise, Scott, and Lori Williams, and Susan Harper for their help with revisions for this edition. Ariela Gross extends thanks to Allison Lauterbach, Cari Valenstein, Lauren Fendrick, and Riaz Tejani for invaluable help with this edition.

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