

The opportunity to take a fresh look at the nation's history is always an exciting one. This text represents a solid interpretation of traditional economic and political history, while also including many original insights into social and cultural changes that have influenced and been influenced by economic and political events. Special attention has also been paid to the role of technology. What emerges, in fact, is a vivid picture of the interrelationship of a nation's technology with its culture and its political and economic life. It is hoped that students will gain insights into the ideas and events that inspired this nation's founding and continue to influence its development.

Of special importance are the biographies. The fascinating people profiled range from Phillis Wheatley to W. E. B. DuBois, from Parson Weems to Belva Lockwood, from Dorothea Dix to J. Robert Oppenheimer.

The book that results is an engrossing story of a young nation engaged in what Thomas Paine described as a "bold and sublime experiment" in government. We hope you enjoy the story of the continuing effort to realize the high ideals of this nation's founding.

Cochran, Vincent P.de Santis, Holman Hamilton, William H. Harbaugh, James M. McPherson, Russel B. Nye, and Clarence L. Ver Steeg. These prestigious authors had brought to it many strengths which resulted in a well received and respected textbook for nearly two decades.

We must also extend our appreciation to the many other historians and scholars whose work is reflected in this edition, including Dr. Brian R. Farmer, who provided extensive editing. Special gratitude goes to those teachers and historians who read the manuscript for the previous editions and gave their comments: Frank W. Abbott, University of Houston, Downtown College; Thomas J. Archdeacon, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Morris H. Holman, Eastfield College; Arthur McClure, Central Missouri State University; and Thomas R. Tefft, Citrus College.

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