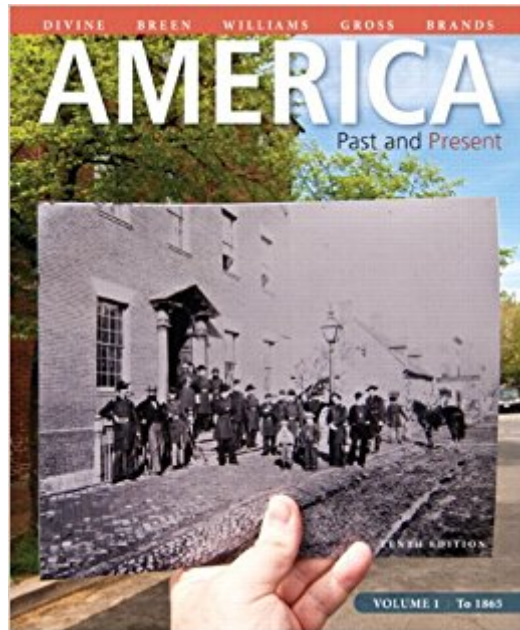


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Robert A. Divine Robert A. Divine, George W. Littlefield Professor Emeritus in American History at the University of Texas at Austin, received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1954. A specialist in American diplomatic history, he taught from 1954 to 1996 at the University of Texas, where he was honored by both the student association and the graduate school for teaching excellence. His extensive published work includes *The Illusion of Neutrality* (1962); *Second Chance: The Triumph of Internationalism in America During World War II* (1967); and *Blowing on the Wind* (1978). His most recent work is *Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace* (2000), a comparative analysis of

twentieth-century American wars. He is also the author of *Eisenhower and the Cold War* (1981) and editor of three volumes of essays on the presidency of Lyndon Johnson. His book, *The Sputnik Challenge* (1993), won the Eugene E. Emme Astronautical Literature Award for 1993. He has been a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and has given the Albert Shaw Lectures in Diplomatic History at Johns Hopkins University. T. H. Breen T. H. Breen, William Smith Mason Professor of American History at Northwestern University, received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1968. He has taught at Northwestern since 1970. Breen's major books include *The Character of the Good Ruler: A Study of Puritan Political Ideas in New England* (1974); *Puritans and Adventurers: Change and Persistence in Early America* (1980); *Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution* (1985); and, with Stephen Innes of the University of Virginia, *"Myne Owne Ground": Race and Freedom on Virginia's Eastern Shore* (1980). His *Imagining the Past* (1989) won the 1990 Historic Preservation Book Award. His most recent book is *Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence* (2004). In addition to receiving several awards for outstanding teaching at Northwestern, Breen has been the recipient of research grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), the National Humanities Center, and the Huntington Library. He has served as the Fowler Hamilton Fellow at Christ Church, Oxford University (1987-1988), the Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, Cambridge University (1990-1991), the Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University (2000-2001), and was a recipient of the Humboldt Prize (Germany). He is currently completing a book tentatively entitled *America's Insurgency: The People's Revolution, 1774-1776*. R. Hal Williams R. Hal Williams is professor of history at Southern Methodist University. He received his A.B. from Princeton University in 1963 and his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1968. His books include *The Democratic Party and California Politics, 1880-1896* (1973); *Years of Decision: American Politics in the 1890s* (1978); and *The Manhattan Project: A Documentary Introduction to the Atomic Age* (1990). A specialist in American political history, he taught at Yale University from 1968 to 1975 and came to SMU in 1975 as chair of the Department of History. From 1980 to 1988, he served as dean of Dedman College, the school of humanities and sciences, at SMU, where he is currently dean of Research and Graduate Studies. In 1980, he was a visiting professor at University College, Oxford University. Williams has received grants from the American Philosophical Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he has served on the Texas Committee for the Humanities. He is currently working on a study of the presidential

election of 1896 and a biography of James G. Blaine, the late-nineteenth-century speaker of the House, secretary of state, and Republican presidential candidate. **Á Á Ariela J. Gross** Ariela J. Gross is Professor of Law and History at the University of Southern California. She received her B.A. from Harvard University, her J.D. from Stanford Law School, and her Ph.D. from Stanford University. She is the author of *Double Character: Slavery and Mastery in the Antebellum Southern Courtroom* (2000) and *Á Á- numerous law review articles and book chapters, including* *Áçâ –Á“Áçâ –ËœCaucasian CloakÁçâ –â„ç: Mexican Americans and the Politics of Whiteness in the Twentieth-Century SouthwestÁçâ –Á• in the *Georgetown Law Journal* (2006). Her current work in progress, *What Blood WonÁçâ –â„çt Tell: Racial Identity on Trial in America*, to be published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, is supported by fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council for Learned Societies. **Á Á H.W. Brands** Henry William Brands was born in Oregon, went to college in California, sold cutlery across the American West, and earned graduate degrees in mathematics and history in Oregon and Texas. He taught at Vanderbilt University and Texas A&M University before joining the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, where he is the Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor of History. He writes on American history and politics, with books including *Traitor to His Class*, *Andrew Jackson*, *The Age of Gold*, *The First American*, and *TR*. Several of his books have been bestsellers; two, *Traitor to His Class* and *The First American*, were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. He lectures frequently on historical and current events, and can be seen and heard on national and international television and radio programs. His writings have been translated into Spanish, French, German, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Ukrainian.*

I didn't purchase this book from , but rather through my college bookstore. I am the sort to enjoy history. I like reading about it, watching documentaries, and I regularly listen to history podcasts. This book is terrible. I do not exaggerate when I say this is the worst history book I've ever read. The writing is disjointed, with jarring interruptions were it is noticeable when they switched authors. The flow of the text makes it frustrating to read, even if you are trying to be interested in the subject matter. But even the subject matter seems to be glossed over in favor of small editorializations. Critically important figures are glossed over with a sentence or two, while dates and locations are barraged at you, often without even the real significance. It is so terrible that I have come here to warn you, a prospective student for a class which uses this book, to change classes to one that does not use it. If I can save just one soul from having to go through the torment that is reading this book, writing this review was worth it. Do it for yourself, do it for the love of history, do it

for the love of loving history, but avoid this book.

Book came exactly as it was described.

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