

america the book

america the book is a satirical masterpiece that explores the intricacies of American history, politics, and culture through a humorous lens. Created by Jon Stewart and his team from The Daily Show, the book has become a cultural touchstone, blending sharp wit with factual insights to both entertain and educate readers about the United States. In this comprehensive article, we will delve into the origins of "America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction," its impact on society, key themes, notable contributors, and its lasting relevance in today's world. Whether you're a fan of political satire, interested in American history, or curious about the evolution of democracy, this guide will provide an in-depth look at why "america the book" remains a significant work. Continue reading to discover a detailed breakdown of its content, legacy, and the reasons it holds an enduring place in the public discourse.

- Overview of america the book
- Origins and Background
- Key Themes and Satirical Elements
- Notable Contributors and Production
- Reception and Cultural Impact
- Legacy and Relevance Today

Overview of america the book

"America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction" is a satirical guide that presents the story of the United States with irreverence and intelligence. First published in 2004, the book quickly gained popularity for its unique blend of humor, parody, and factual commentary on American democracy. Designed to mimic a high school civics textbook, it uses comedic illustrations, mock quizzes, and fictional lessons to dissect the functioning of American government, the electoral process, and the nation's historical milestones.

The book stands out for its accessible approach, making complex political concepts understandable and entertaining. By leveraging satire, "america the book" encourages readers to question conventional narratives and think critically about citizenship, governance, and media influence. It remains a go-to resource for those seeking an insightful yet entertaining perspective on American society.

Origins and Background

The Daily Show's Influence

"America the book" was conceptualized and written by Jon Stewart, the host of The Daily Show, along with several writers from the acclaimed television program. The show's unique blend of satire and news commentary set the tone for the book, allowing it to tackle serious topics in a lighthearted yet thought-provoking manner. Drawing inspiration from political events and American civic education, the creators aimed to produce a guide that would simultaneously inform and amuse.

Publication and Format

Published by Warner Books in 2004, "America the book" was designed as a parody of traditional American textbooks. Its layout includes mock chapters, humorous sidebars, and doctored images, all crafted to resemble educational materials while subverting their content for comedic effect. The book's format invites readers to engage with the material as both a learning tool and a source of entertainment.

Key Themes and Satirical Elements

Democracy and Governance

One of the central themes of "america the book" is its exploration of democracy in the United States. The authors use satire to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system, poking fun at bureaucratic inefficiency, political scandals, and the complexities of the electoral process. Through exaggerated scenarios and clever analogies, the book sheds light on the realities of governing a diverse nation.

American History with a Twist

The book provides an alternative take on American history, reimagining key events and figures with exaggerated humor. From the Founding Fathers to modern presidents, each chapter uses parody to challenge the traditional narrative and encourage readers to question historical interpretations. The use of playful illustrations and mock timelines adds to the book's engaging style.

Media and Public Perception

A recurring motif in "america the book" is the influence of media on public opinion and political discourse. The authors satirize news outlets, campaign advertisements, and the shaping of public narratives, exposing how information is presented and manipulated. This critical lens prompts readers to reflect on their own media consumption and its impact on civic participation.

Notable Contributors and Production

Jon Stewart and The Daily Show Team

Jon Stewart served as the lead author, supported by head writers Ben Karlin and David Javerbaum, among others. Their collective experience in political satire and television writing ensured that the book maintained a sharp, witty tone while delivering factual insights. The collaborative process brought together diverse perspectives, resulting in a comprehensive and entertaining guide.

Illustrators and Designers

Visual humor plays a significant role in "America the Book." Talented illustrators and designers contributed to the book's iconic style, creating doctored photographs, caricatures, and satirical diagrams that enhance the comedic effect. These visual elements not only add to the entertainment value but also help clarify complex concepts for readers.

- Jon Stewart – Lead author and host of The Daily Show
- Ben Karlin – Head writer and producer
- David Javerbaum – Writer and satirist
- Contributing staff from The Daily Show
- Professional illustrators and graphic designers

Reception and Cultural Impact

Critical Acclaim

"America the Book" received widespread praise from critics for its innovative approach to political satire. Reviewers highlighted the book's clever writing, insightful commentary, and ability to make civic education entertaining. It was awarded the Thurber Prize for American Humor and appeared on bestseller lists, cementing its status as a must-read for fans of comedy and politics.

Influence on Political Discourse

The book's satirical style influenced how audiences engage with political content, inspiring similar works in television, literature, and online media. It encouraged a new generation to question authority, scrutinize government actions, and participate more actively in democracy. Its legacy can be seen in the continued popularity of satirical news and commentary shows.

Legacy and Relevance Today

Enduring Popularity

Nearly two decades after its release, "america the book" remains relevant due to its timeless commentary and universal themes. Its humorous approach to serious issues resonates with readers across age groups and backgrounds. The book is often cited as a gateway to understanding American politics, making it a valuable resource for students, educators, and general audiences.

Educational Value

Despite its satirical nature, "america the book" offers genuine educational insights into the workings of American democracy. Teachers and professors have incorporated it into curricula to foster critical thinking and spark discussions about civic responsibility. Its ability to simplify complex ideas using humor continues to make it an effective teaching tool.

Modern Relevance

The themes explored in "america the book" remain pertinent in today's political climate. Issues such as media bias, government transparency, and civic engagement are as relevant now as they were at the time of publication. The book's legacy is evident in ongoing debates about the role of satire in shaping public understanding and discourse.

Trending Questions and Answers about america the book

Q: Who are the main authors of america the book?

A: The main authors are Jon Stewart, Ben Karlin, and David Javerbaum, with contributions from writers and staff of The Daily Show.

Q: What is the primary focus of america the book?

A: The primary focus is to satirize American democracy, politics, and history while providing factual commentary in an entertaining format.

Q: When was america the book published?

A: "America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction" was first published in 2004.

Q: How does america the book use satire?

A: The book employs parody, exaggerated scenarios, and humorous illustrations to critique and analyze the American political system and civic culture.

Q: Is america the book suitable for educational use?

A: Yes, many educators use it to engage students in discussions about government, media, and history due to its accessible and informative style.

Q: What awards has america the book received?

A: The book won the Thurber Prize for American Humor and appeared on several bestseller lists.

Q: Why is america the book considered culturally significant?

A: Its unique blend of satire and factual commentary has influenced political discourse and inspired other works in satirical media.

Q: Are there visual elements in america the book?

A: Yes, the book features doctored images, caricatures, and diagrams that enhance its comedic and educational impact.

Q: How does america the book remain relevant today?

A: Its themes of media influence, government transparency, and civic engagement continue to resonate amid ongoing political debates.

Q: Can america the book help readers understand American politics?

A: Absolutely, its satirical yet factual approach simplifies complex topics and encourages critical thinking about U.S. politics and society.

America The Book

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America the Book: Unpacking the Narrative of a Nation

America. The very word conjures images: sprawling landscapes, bustling cities, a tapestry woven from countless individual stories. But what is the true story of America? Is it a single, unified narrative, or a complex, multifaceted collection of experiences? This post delves into the concept of "America the Book," exploring the diverse perspectives, historical events, and cultural influences that shape our understanding of this vast and dynamic nation. We'll unpack the chapters of this ongoing story, examining how different authors – from indigenous peoples to immigrants, from revolutionaries to activists – have contributed to its ever-evolving narrative. Prepare to embark on a journey through the pages of "America the Book," a journey that promises to challenge your assumptions and enrich your understanding.

H2: The Indigenous Chapters: A Foundation Often Overlooked

Before the arrival of European colonists, the land we now know as America was home to a rich tapestry of indigenous cultures. For centuries, diverse Native American nations thrived, each with its own unique history, language, and societal structure. These pre-Columbian societies built complex civilizations, developed sophisticated agricultural techniques, and created vibrant art forms. Understanding their stories is crucial to grasping the full narrative of "America the Book," as it reveals the profound impact of colonization and the enduring legacy of indigenous resilience. Ignoring these foundational chapters is to fundamentally misunderstand the entire volume.

H3: Erasure and Resilience: The Ongoing Struggle for Recognition

The arrival of Europeans drastically altered the trajectory of indigenous life. The narrative of colonization, often romanticized or minimized in traditional accounts, involved brutal displacement, disease, and systematic oppression. However, the indigenous peoples of America did not simply disappear. Their resilience, their ongoing fight for self-determination, and their continued cultural practices represent a vital chapter in "America the Book," one that demands acknowledgement and respectful engagement.

H2: The Revolutionary Chapter: A Birth in Conflict

The American Revolution, often portrayed as a heroic struggle for independence, also presents a more complex reality. The fight for liberty and self-governance was undeniably significant, but it was also fraught with internal contradictions. The revolution's ideals of freedom and equality were not extended to all, notably excluding enslaved Africans and indigenous peoples. Examining this chapter reveals the inherent tensions within the founding narrative, setting the stage for ongoing struggles for social justice within "America the Book."

H3: Founding Fathers and Forgotten Voices: A Balanced Perspective

While figures like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson are celebrated as founding fathers, it's crucial to acknowledge the contributions of lesser-known individuals and the perspectives of those marginalized by the revolution. Understanding the nuances of this period requires a careful examination of primary sources, including the writings and experiences of women, enslaved people, and those who opposed the revolution.

H2: The Chapters of Expansion and Conflict: Manifest Destiny and its Consequences

The westward expansion of the United States, often framed as "Manifest Destiny," represents another complex chapter in "America the Book." While it fueled economic growth and territorial expansion, it also led to the displacement and dispossession of indigenous populations, fueling conflicts and injustices that continue to resonate today. This chapter underscores the ongoing tension between national ambition and the ethical considerations of territorial acquisition and its impact on marginalized communities.

H2: The Civil War and Reconstruction: A Nation Divided, Then Reunited (Imperfectly)

The American Civil War and the subsequent Reconstruction era mark a pivotal moment in "America the Book." The struggle over slavery tore the nation apart, leading to immense bloodshed and profound social upheaval. Reconstruction, while aiming to rebuild the South and integrate formerly enslaved people into society, ultimately fell short of its goals, leading to a legacy of racial inequality that persists to this day. Understanding this chapter requires a deep dive into the realities of slavery, the brutality of the war, and the failures of Reconstruction.

H2: The 20th and 21st Centuries: A Story Still Unfolding

The 20th and 21st centuries have witnessed significant social and political changes, from the rise of industrialization and immigration to the civil rights movement and the ongoing struggles for equality and justice. These chapters reflect the continued evolution of "America the Book," showcasing both progress and setbacks, successes and failures. From the World Wars to the Cold War, from the feminist movement to the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, each event contributes to the ongoing narrative.

Conclusion:

"America the Book" is not a single, definitive story but a collection of interconnected narratives, each offering unique perspectives on the nation's past, present, and future. By exploring these diverse accounts, we gain a richer, more nuanced understanding of the American experience and the ongoing quest for a more just and equitable society. The book remains open, constantly being rewritten by the actions and experiences of its people.

FAQs:

1. Is "America the Book" a real book? No, "America the Book" is a metaphor used to represent the multifaceted and ever-evolving narrative of the United States.
2. Who are the authors of "America the Book"? The "authors" are the countless individuals – from indigenous peoples to immigrants, from politicians to activists – who have shaped the nation's history and culture.
3. How can I contribute to the narrative of "America the Book"? By engaging in civic participation, promoting social justice, and sharing your own story, you become part of the ongoing narrative.
4. Why is it important to understand the diverse perspectives within "America the Book"? Understanding diverse perspectives allows for a more complete and accurate understanding of American history and fosters empathy and understanding across different groups.
5. Where can I learn more about the different chapters of "America the Book"? Numerous resources exist, including historical archives, museums, libraries, academic journals, and documentaries. Critical engagement with diverse sources is crucial.

america the book: America (the Book) Jon Stewart, Ben Karlin, David Javerbaum, 2004
Amazon.com ExclusivesFeaturing a foreword by Thomas Jefferson, a Dress the Supreme Court layout, and, oddly enough, a profile of George The Iceman Gervin, America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction, from Jon Stewart and the writers of the Emmy Award-winning The Daily Show, is by far one the most irreverent and wittiest (and may we add smartest) political book you're likely to encounter. Amazon.com spoke with Jon Stewart a few days before the 2004 publication of America (The Book) and they discussed bald eagles, magical talking cats, Thor Heyerdahl, and much more • Read the Amazon.com Interview with Jon Stewart • Listen to the Amazon.com Interview with Jon Stewart • Watch a vintage Amazon.com Exclusive Video from Jon StewartMore from Jon Stewart Naked Pictures of Famous People America (The Book) [Audio CD] The Daily Show with Jon Stewart: Indecision 2004 [DVD]

america the book: America Jon Stewart, Ben Karlin, David Javerbaum, 2005 American democracy is the world's most beloved form of government, which is why so many other nations are eager for it to be imposed on them. But just what exactly is it? Jon Stewart and his fellow patriots from the Emmy-winning The Daily Show finally deliver the answer. They offer their insights into a unique system of government, dissecting its institutions, explaining its history and processes, and exploring the reasons why concepts like 'One man, one vote', 'Government by the people', and 'Every vote counts' have become such popular urban myths. Includes such favourites as Ancient Rome: The First Republicans; The Founding Fathers: Young, Gifted and White; The President: King of Democracy; The Supreme Court: 18 Legs, Four Tits, One Mission; Running for Office: What Are You Thinking?; The Media: Can It Be Stopped?; The Future of Democracy: The Constitutional Robocracy

and You

america the book: America: The Farewell Tour Chris Hedges, 2019-08-27 Chris Hedges's profound and unsettling examination of America in crisis is "an exceedingly...provocative book, certain to arouse controversy, but offering a point of view that needs to be heard" (Booklist), about how bitter hopelessness and malaise have resulted in a culture of sadism and hate. America, says Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Chris Hedges, is convulsed by an array of pathologies that have arisen out of profound hopelessness, a bitter despair, and a civil society that has ceased to function. The opioid crisis; the retreat into gambling to cope with economic distress; the pornification of culture; the rise of magical thinking; the celebration of sadism, hate, and plagues of suicides are the physical manifestations of a society that is being ravaged by corporate pillage and a failed democracy. As our society unravels, we also face global upheaval caused by catastrophic climate change. All these ills presage a frightening reconfiguration of the nation and the planet. Donald Trump rode this disenchantment to power. In his "forceful and direct" (Publishers Weekly) *America: The Farewell Tour*, Hedges argues that neither political party, now captured by corporate power, addresses the systemic problem. Until our corporate coup d'état is reversed these diseases will grow and ravage the country. "With sharply observed detail, Hedges writes a requiem for the American dream" (Kirkus Reviews) and seeks to jolt us out of our complacency while there is still time.

america the book: The Children's Book of America William J. Bennett, 1998-11-02 Presents stories of significant events and people in American history, patriotic songs, and American folk tales and poems.

america the book: In America Susan Sontag, 2001-05-04 A glorious, sweeping new novel from the bestselling author of *The Volcano Lover*. *The Volcano Lover*, Susan Sontag's bestselling 1992 novel, retold the love story of Emma Lady Hamilton and Lord Nelson with consummate power. In her enthralling new novel--once again based on a real story--Sontag shows us our own country on the cusp of modernity. In 1876 a group of Poles led by Maryna Zalewska, Poland's greatest actress, travel to California to found a utopian commune. Maryna, who has renounced her career, is accompanied by her small son and husband; in her entourage is a rising young writer who is in love with her. The novel portrays a West that is still largely empty, where white settlers confront native Californians and Asian coolies. The image of America, and of California--as fantasy, as escape, as radical simplification--constantly meets a more complex reality. The commune fails and most of the émigrés go home, but Maryna stays and triumphs on the American stage. *In America* is a big, juicy, surprising book--about a woman's search for self-transformation, about the fate of idealism, about the world of the theater--that will captivate its readers from the first page. It is Sontag's most delicious, most brilliant achievement. *In America* is the winner of the 2000 National Book Award for Fiction.

america the book: What's So Great About America Dinesh D'Souza, 2012-11-20 With *What's So Great About America*, Dinesh D'Souza is not asking a question, but making a statement. The former White House policy analyst and bestselling author argues that in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, American ideals and patriotism should not be things we shy away from. Instead he offers the grounds for a solid, well-considered pride in the Western pillars of science, democracy and capitalism, while deconstructing arguments from both the political Left and political Right. As an outsider from India who has had amazing success in the United States, D'Souza defends not an idealized America, but America as it really is, and measures America not against an utopian ideal, but against the rest of the world in a provocative, challenging, and personal book.

america the book: Fire in America Stephen J. Pyne, 2017-01-27 From prehistory to the present-day conservation movement, Pyne explores the efforts of successive American cultures to master wildfire and to use it to shape the landscape.

america the book: *All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel* Dan Yaccarino, 2012-06-27 "This immigration story is universal." —School Library Journal, Starred Dan Yaccarino's great-grandfather arrived at Ellis Island with a small shovel and his parents' good advice: "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family." With simple text and

warm, colorful illustrations, Yaccarino recounts how the little shovel was passed down through four generations of this Italian-American family—along with the good advice. It's a story that will have kids asking their parents and grandparents: Where did we come from? How did our family make the journey all the way to America? "A shovel is just a shovel, but in Dan Yaccarino's hands it becomes a way to dig deep into the past and honor all those who helped make us who we are." —Eric Rohmann, winner of the Caldecott Medal for *My Friend Rabbit* "All the Way to America is a charmer. Yaccarino's heartwarming story rings clearly with truth, good cheer, and love." —Tomie dePaola, winner of a Caldecott Honor Award for *Strega Nona*

america the book: What is America? Ronald Wright, 2008 In the six years since 9/11, as the bush regime has squandered domestic solidarity and international goodwill, many of the archetypes and ideals with which we've traditionally framed the American enterprise now seem endangered, even hollow. This raises the question, has America ever been what it thinks it is?

america the book: American Like Me America Ferrera, 2019-09-03 INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER From Academy Award-nominated actress and 2023 SeeHer award recipient America Ferrera comes a vibrant and varied collection of first-person accounts from prominent figures about the experience of growing up between cultures. America Ferrera has always felt wholly American, and yet, her identity is inextricably linked to her parents' homeland and Honduran culture. Speaking Spanish at home, having Saturday-morning-salsa-dance-parties in the kitchen, and eating tamales alongside apple pie at Christmas never seemed at odds with her American identity. Still, she yearned to see that identity reflected in the larger American narrative. Now, in *American Like Me*, America invites thirty-one of her friends, peers, and heroes to share their stories about life between cultures. We know them as actors, comedians, athletes, politicians, artists, and writers. However, they are also immigrants, children or grandchildren of immigrants, indigenous people, or people who otherwise grew up with deep and personal connections to more than one culture. Each of them struggled to establish a sense of self, find belonging, and feel seen. And they call themselves American enthusiastically, reluctantly, or not at all. Ranging from the heartfelt to the hilarious, their stories shine a light on a quintessentially American experience and will appeal to anyone with a complicated relationship to family, culture, and growing up.

america the book: Call Me American Abdi Nor Iftin, 2019-05-07 Abdi Nor Iftin first fell in love with America from afar. As a child, he learned English by listening to American pop and watching action films starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. When U.S. marines landed in Mogadishu to take on the warlords, Abdi cheered the arrival of these Americans, who seemed as heroic as those of the movies. Sporting American clothes and dance moves, he became known around Mogadishu as Abdi American, but when the radical Islamist group al-Shabaab rose to power in 2006, it became dangerous to celebrate Western culture. Desperate to make a living, Abdi used his language skills to post secret dispatches, which found an audience of worldwide listeners. Eventually, though, Abdi was forced to flee to Kenya. In an amazing stroke of luck, Abdi won entrance to the U.S. in the annual visa lottery, though his route to America did not come easily. Parts of his story were first heard on the BBC World Service and *This American Life*. Now a proud resident of Maine, on the path to citizenship, Abdi Nor Iftin's dramatic, deeply stirring memoir is truly a story for our time: a vivid reminder of why America still beckons to those looking to make a better life.

america the book: A History of the Book in America Scott E. Casper, Jeffrey D. Groves, Stephen W. Nissenbaum, David D. Hall, Michael P. Winship, 2009-09-15 Volume 3 of *A History of the Book in America* narrates the emergence of a national book trade in the nineteenth century, as changes in manufacturing, distribution, and publishing conditioned, and were conditioned by, the evolving practices of authors and readers. Chapters trace the ascent of the industrial book--a manufactured product arising from the gradual adoption of new printing, binding, and illustration technologies and encompassing the profusion of nineteenth-century printed materials--which relied on nationwide networks of financing, transportation, and communication. In tandem with increasing educational opportunities and rising literacy rates, the industrial book encouraged new sites of reading; gave voice to diverse communities of interest through periodicals, broadsides, pamphlets,

and other printed forms; and played a vital role in the development of American culture.

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america the book: A History of the Book in America Robert A. Gross, Mary Kelley, 2014-07-07 History of the Book in America: Volume 2: An Extensive Republic: Print, Culture, and Society in the New Nation, 1790-1840

america the book: The Daily Show (The Book) Chris Smith, 2016-11-22 The complete, uncensored history of the award-winning The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, as told by its correspondents, writers, and host. For almost seventeen years, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart brilliantly redefined the borders between television comedy, political satire, and opinionated news coverage. It launched the careers of some of today's most significant comedians, highlighted the hypocrisies of the powerful, and garnered 23 Emmys. Now the show's behind-the-scenes gags, controversies, and camaraderie will be chronicled by the players themselves, from legendary host Jon Stewart to the star cast members and writers-including Samantha Bee, Stephen Colbert, John Oliver, Steve Carell, Lewis Black, Jessica Williams, John Hodgman, and Larry Wilmore-plus some of The Daily Show's most prominent guests and adversaries: John and Cindy McCain, Glenn Beck, Tucker Carlson, and many more. This oral history takes the reader behind the curtain for all the show's highlights, from its origins as Comedy Central's underdog late-night program hosted by Craig Kilborn to Jon Stewart's long reign to Trevor Noah's succession, rising from a scrappy jester in the 24-hour political news cycle to become part of the beating heart of politics-a trusted source for not only comedy but also commentary, with a reputation for calling bullshit and an ability to effect real change in the world. Through years of incisive election coverage, Jon Stewart's emotional monologue in the wake of 9/11, his infamous confrontation on Crossfire, passionate debates with President Obama and Hillary Clinton, feuds with Bill O'Reilly and Fox, the Indecisions, Mess O'Potamia, and provocative takes on Wall Street and racism, The Daily Show has been a cultural touchstone. Now, for the first time, the people behind the show's seminal moments come together to share their memories of the last-minute rewrites, improvisations, pranks, romances, blow-ups, and moments of Zen both on and off the set of one of America's most groundbreaking shows.

america the book: *America Alone* Mark Steyn, 2008-04-07 Mark Steyn is a human sandblaster. This book provides a powerful, abrasive, high-velocity assault on encrusted layers of sugarcoating and whitewash over the threat of Islamic imperialism. Do we in the West have the will to prevail? - MICHELLE MALKIN, New York Times bestselling author of *Unhinged* Mark Steyn is the funniest writer now living. But don't be distracted by the brilliance of his jokes. They are the neon lights advertising a profound and sad insight: America is almost alone in resisting both the suicide of the West and the suicide bombing of radical Islamism. - JOHN O'SULLIVAN, editor at large, National Review IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT..... Someday soon, you might wake up to the call to prayer from a muezzin. Europeans already are. And liberals will still tell you that diversity is our strength--while Talibanic enforcers cruise Greenwich Village burning books and barber shops, the Supreme Court decides sharia law doesn't violate the separation of church and state, and the Hollywood Left decides to give up on gay rights in favor of the much safer charms of polygamy. If you think this can't happen, you haven't been paying attention, as the hilarious, provocative, and brilliant Mark Steyn--the most popular conservative columnist in the English-speaking world--shows to devastating effect. The future, as Steyn shows, belongs to the fecund and the confident. And the

Islamists are both, while the West is looking ever more like the ruins of a civilization. But America can survive, prosper, and defend its freedom only if it continues to believe in itself, in the sturdier virtues of self-reliance (not government), in the centrality of family, and in the conviction that our country really is the world's last best hope. Mark Steyn's *America Alone* is laugh-out-loud funny--but it will also change the way you look at the world.

america the book: *Made in America* Claude S. Fischer, 2010-05-15 Our nation began with the simple phrase, "We the People." But who were and are "We"? Who were we in 1776, in 1865, or 1968, and is there any continuity in character between the we of those years and the nearly 300 million people living in the radically different America of today? With *Made in America*, Claude S. Fischer draws on decades of historical, psychological, and social research to answer that question by tracking the evolution of American character and culture over three centuries. He explodes myths—such as that contemporary Americans are more mobile and less religious than their ancestors, or that they are more focused on money and consumption—and reveals instead how greater security and wealth have only reinforced the independence, egalitarianism, and commitment to community that characterized our people from the earliest years. Skillfully drawing on personal stories of representative Americans, Fischer shows that affluence and social progress have allowed more people to participate fully in cultural and political life, thus broadening the category of "American" —yet at the same time what it means to be an American has retained surprising continuity with much earlier notions of American character. Firmly in the vein of such classics as *The Lonely Crowd* and *Habits of the Heart*—yet challenging many of their conclusions—*Made in America* takes readers beyond the simplicity of headlines and the actions of elites to show us the lives, aspirations, and emotions of ordinary Americans, from the settling of the colonies to the settling of the suburbs.

america the book: *America for Americans* Erika Lee, 2019-11-26 This definitive history of American xenophobia is essential reading for anyone who wants to build a more inclusive society (Ibram X. Kendi, New York Times-bestselling author of *How to Be an Antiracist*). The United States is known as a nation of immigrants. But it is also a nation of xenophobia. In *America for Americans*, Erika Lee shows that an irrational fear, hatred, and hostility toward immigrants has been a defining feature of our nation from the colonial era to the Trump era. Benjamin Franklin ridiculed Germans for their strange and foreign ways. Americans' anxiety over Irish Catholics turned xenophobia into a national political movement. Chinese immigrants were excluded, Japanese incarcerated, and Mexicans deported. Today, Americans fear Muslims, Latinos, and the so-called browning of America. Forcing us to confront this history, Lee explains how xenophobia works, why it has endured, and how it threatens America. Now updated with an epilogue reflecting on how the coronavirus pandemic turbocharged xenophobia, *America for Americans* is an urgent spur to action for any concerned citizen.

america the book: *The Plot Against America* Philip Roth, 2004-10-05 Philip Roth's bestselling alternate history—the chilling story of what happens to one family when America elects a charismatic, isolationist president—is soon to be an HBO limited series. In an extraordinary feat of narrative invention, Philip Roth imagines an alternate history where Franklin D. Roosevelt loses the 1940 presidential election to heroic aviator and rabid isolationist Charles A. Lindbergh. Shortly thereafter, Lindbergh negotiates a cordial "understanding" with Adolf Hitler, while the new government embarks on a program of folksy anti-Semitism. For one boy growing up in Newark, Lindbergh's election is the first in a series of ruptures that threaten to destroy his small, safe corner of America—and with it, his mother, his father, and his older brother. A terrific political novel . . . Sinister, vivid, dreamlike . . . creepily plausible. . . You turn the pages, astonished and frightened." — The New York Times Book Review

america the book: *Behold, America* Sarah Churchwell, 2018-10-09 A Smithsonian Magazine Best History Book of 2018 The unknown history of two ideas crucial to the struggle over what America stands for In *Behold, America*, Sarah Churchwell offers a surprising account of twentieth-century Americans' fierce battle for the nation's soul. It follows the stories of two phrases

-- the American dream and America First -- that once embodied opposing visions for America. Starting as a Republican motto before becoming a hugely influential isolationist slogan during World War I, America First was always closely linked with authoritarianism and white supremacy. The American dream, meanwhile, initially represented a broad vision of democratic and economic equality. Churchwell traces these notions through the 1920s boom, the Depression, and the rise of fascism at home and abroad, laying bare the persistent appeal of demagoguery in America and showing us how it was resisted. At a time when many ask what America's future holds, Behold, America is a revelatory, unvarnished portrait of where we have been.

america the book: A User's Guide to Democracy Nick Capodice, Hannah McCarthy, 2020-09-08 From the hosts of the Civics 101 podcast—and a New Yorker cartoonist—“an informative and appealing civics lesson for first-time voters and old hands alike” (Publishers Weekly). Do you know what the Secretary of Defense does all day? Are you sure you know the difference between the House and the Senate? Have you been pretending you know what Federalism is for the last twenty years? Don't worry—you're not alone. The American government and its processes can be dizzyingly complex and obscure. Until now! Within this book are the keys to knowing what you're talking about when you argue politics with the uncle you only see at Thanksgiving, and a quick reference to turn to when the nightly news boggles your mind. This approachable and informative guide gives you the lowdown on everything from the three branches of government to what you can actually do to make your vote count to how our founding documents affect our daily lives. Now is the time to finally understand who does what, how they do it, and the best way to get them to listen to you. “An easily digestible, illustrated guidebook to the agencies and institutions that make up the federal government . . . Just the thing for students of civics—which, these days, should include the entire polity.” —Kirkus Reviews

america the book: Winter in America Daniel Robert McClure, 2021-10-22 Neoliberalism took shape in the 1930s and 1940s as a transnational political philosophy and system of economic, political, and cultural relations. Resting on the fundamental premise that the free market should be unfettered by government intrusion, neoliberal policies have primarily redirected the state's prerogatives away from the postwar Keynesian welfare system and toward the insulation of finance and corporate America from democratic pressure. As neoliberal ideas gained political currency in the 1960s and 1970s, a reactionary cultural turn catalyzed their ascension. The cinema, music, magazine culture, and current events discourse of the 1970s provided the space of negotiation permitting these ideas to take hold and be challenged. Daniel Robert McClure's book follows the interaction between culture and economics during the transition from Keynesianism in the mid-1960s to the triumph of neoliberalism at the dawn of the 1980s. From the 1965 debate between William F. Buckley and James Baldwin, through the pages of BusinessWeek and Playboy, to the rise of exploitation cinema in the 1970s, McClure tracks the increasingly shared perception by white males that they had lost their long-standing rights and that a great neoliberal reckoning might restore America's repressive racial, sexual, gendered, and classed foundations in the wake of the 1960s.

america the book: Fortress America Elaine Tyler May, 2017-12-12 An award-winning historian argues that America's obsession with security imperils our democracy in this compelling portrait of cultural anxiety (Mary L. Dudziak, author of War Time). For the last sixty years, fear has seeped into every area of American life: Americans own more guns than citizens of any other country, sequester themselves in gated communities, and retreat from public spaces. And yet, crime rates have plummeted, making life in America safer than ever. Why, then, are Americans so afraid—and where does this fear lead to? In this remarkable work of social history, Elaine Tyler May demonstrates how our obsession with security has made citizens fear each other and distrust the government, making America less safe and less democratic. Fortress America charts the rise of a muscular national culture, undercutting the common good. Instead of a thriving democracy of engaged citizens, we have become a paranoid, bunkered, militarized, and divided vigilante nation.

america the book: History Has Begun Bruno Maçães, 2020 Popular consensus says that the US

rose over two centuries to Cold War victory and world domination, and is now in slow decline. But is this right? History's great civilizations have always lasted much longer, and for all its colossal power, American culture was overshadowed by Europe until recently. What if this isn't the end? In *History Has Begun*, Bruno Maçães offers a compelling vision of America's future, both fascinating and unnerving. From the early American Republic, he takes us to the turbulent present, when, he argues, America is finally forging its own path. We can see the birth pangs of this new civilization in today's debates on guns, religion, foreign policy and the significance of Trump. Should the coronavirus pandemic be regarded as an opportunity to build a new kind of society? What will its values be, and what will this new America look like? Maçães traces the long arc of US history to argue that in contrast to those who see the US on the cusp of decline, it may well be simply shifting to a new model, one equally powerful but no longer liberal. Consequently, it is no longer enough to analyze America's current trajectory through the simple prism of decline vs. progress, which assumes a static model-America as liberal leviathan. Rather, Maçães argues that America may be casting off the liberalism that has defined the country since its founding for a new model, one more appropriate to succeeding in a transformed world.

america the book: Comic Book Nation Bradford W. Wright, 2003-10-17 A history of comic books from the 1930s to 9/11.

america the book: *The Lost Continent* Bill Bryson, 1989 I come from Des Moines. Somebody had to. And, as soon as Bill Bryson was old enough, he left. Des Moines couldn't hold him, but it did lure him back. After ten years in England he returned to the land of his youth, and drove almost 14,000 miles in search of a mythical small town called Amalgam, the kind of smiling village where the movies from his youth were set. Instead he drove through a series of horrific burgs, which he renamed Smellville, Fartville, Coleslaw, Coma, and Doldrum. At best his search led him to Anywhere, USA, a lookalike strip of gas stations, motels and hamburger outlets populated by obese and slow-witted hicks with a partiality for synthetic fibres. He discovered a continent that was doubly lost: lost to itself because he found it blighted by greed, pollution, mobile homes and television; lost to him because he had become a foreigner in his own country.

america the book: *The Soul of America* Jon Meacham, 2018-05-08 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham helps us understand the present moment in American politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear. ONE OF OPRAH'S "BOOKS THAT HELP ME THROUGH" • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • The Christian Science Monitor • Southern Living Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in *The Soul of America* Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other presidents, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and illuminating the courage of such influential citizen activists as Martin Luther King, Jr., early suffragettes Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt, civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and John Lewis, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Army-McCarthy hearings lawyer Joseph N. Welch, Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history. He writes about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the birth of the Lost Cause; the backlash against immigrants in the First World War and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s; the fight for women's rights; the demagoguery of Huey Long and Father Coughlin and the isolationist work of America First in the years before World War II; the anti-Communist witch-hunts led by Senator Joseph McCarthy; and Lyndon Johnson's crusade against Jim Crow. Each of these dramatic hours in our national life have been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear—a struggle that continues even now. While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, "The good news is that we have come through such darkness before"—as, time and again, Lincoln's better angels have found a way to prevail. Praise for *The Soul of America* "Brilliant, fascinating, timely . . . With compelling narratives of past eras of

strife and disenchantment, Meacham offers wisdom for our own time.”—Walter Isaacson “Gripping and inspiring, *The Soul of America* is Jon Meacham’s declaration of his faith in America.”—Newsday “Meacham gives readers a long-term perspective on American history and a reason to believe the soul of America is ultimately one of kindness and caring, not rancor and paranoia.”—USA Today

america the book: *The Great American Read: The Book of Books* PBS, 2018-08-21 A blockbuster illustrated book that captures what Americans love to read, *The Great American Read: The Book of Books* is the gorgeously-produced companion book to PBS's ambitious summer 2018 series. What are America's best-loved novels? PBS will launch *The Great American Read* series with a 2-hour special in May 2018 revealing America's 100 best-loved novels, determined by a rigorous national survey. Subsequent episodes will air in September and October. Celebrities and everyday Americans will champion their favorite novel and in the finale in late October, America's #1 best-loved novel will be revealed. *The Great American Read: The Book of Books* will present all 100 novels with fascinating information about each book, author profiles, a snapshot of the novel's social relevance, film or television adaptations, other books and writings by the author, and little-known facts. Also included are themed articles about banned books, the most influential book illustrators, reading recommendations, the best first-lines in literature, and more. Beautifully designed with rare images of the original manuscripts, first-edition covers, rejection letters, and other ephemera, *The Great American Read: The Book of Books* is a must-have book for all booklovers.

america the book: *Democracy in America Volume—1* Alexis de Tocqueville, 2024-10-21 Embark on an intellectual journey with Alexis de Tocqueville's insightful exploration, *Democracy in America, Volume 1*. Uncover the intricacies of American society as Tocqueville examines the principles and practices that define democracy in the early 19th century. As Tocqueville's analysis unfolds, he reveals the profound effects of democracy on American life. But here's the question that lingers: Can the strengths of American democracy coexist with its inherent challenges? Delve into Tocqueville's observations on individualism, social equality, and the balance of freedom and order. He scrutinizes how these elements shape the character of American citizens, offering a timeless reflection on the nature of democracy itself. How do these early insights resonate with the modern American experience? This edition provides a rich context for understanding Tocqueville's revolutionary ideas. His profound insights continue to challenge our perceptions of democracy, making this a crucial read for anyone interested in political philosophy and social theory. Are you prepared to confront the dilemmas and aspirations of a democratic society through the eyes of a keen observer in *Democracy in America, Volume 1*? Experience concise, engaging passages that illuminate the essence of American democracy. Tocqueville's sharp intellect invites readers to critically assess the ideals and realities of democratic governance. This is your opportunity to grasp the foundational ideas that continue to shape discussions on democracy today. Will you take the first step toward understanding the complexities of freedom and equality? Seize the moment to explore this essential work. Purchase *Democracy in America, Volume 1* now, and immerse yourself in Tocqueville's timeless analysis of democracy that remains relevant in our contemporary world.

america the book: *Our America* Lealan Jones, Lloyd Newman, David Isay, 1998-05 The award-winning creators of National Public Radio's *Ghetto Life 101* and *Remorse: The 14 Stories of Eric Morse* combine talents with a young photographer to show what life is like in one of the country's darkest places: Chicago's Ida B. Wells housing project. Photos.

america the book: *Songs of America* Jon Meacham, Tim McGraw, 2019-06-11 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A celebration of American history through the music that helped to shape a nation, by Pulitzer Prize winner Jon Meacham and music superstar Tim McGraw “Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw form an irresistible duo—connecting us to music as an unsung force in our nation's history.”—Doris Kearns Goodwin Through all the years of strife and triumph, America has been shaped not just by our elected leaders and our formal politics but also by our music—by the lyrics, performers, and instrumentals that have helped to carry us through the dark days and to celebrate the bright ones. From “The Star-Spangled Banner” to “Born in the U.S.A.,” Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw take readers on a moving and insightful journey through eras in American history and the

songs and performers that inspired us. Meacham chronicles our history, exploring the stories behind the songs, and Tim McGraw reflects on them as an artist and performer. Their perspectives combine to create a unique view of the role music has played in uniting and shaping a nation. Beginning with the battle hymns of the revolution, and taking us through songs from the defining events of the Civil War, the fight for women's suffrage, the two world wars, the Great Depression, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and into the twenty-first century, Meacham and McGraw explore the songs that defined generations, and the cultural and political climates that produced them. Readers will discover the power of music in the lives of figures such as Harriet Tubman, Franklin Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and will learn more about some of our most beloved musicians and performers, including Marian Anderson, Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan, Duke Ellington, Carole King, Bruce Springsteen, and more. *Songs of America* explores both famous songs and lesser-known ones, expanding our understanding of the scope of American music and lending deeper meaning to the historical context of such songs as "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," "God Bless America," "Over There," "We Shall Overcome," and "Blowin' in the Wind." As Quincy Jones says, Meacham and McGraw have "convened a concert in *Songs of America*," one that reminds us of who we are, where we've been, and what we, at our best, can be.

america the book: The Broken Heart of America Walter Johnson, 2020-04-14 A searing portrait of the racial dynamics that lie inescapably at the heart of our nation, told through the turbulent history of the city of St. Louis. From Lewis and Clark's 1804 expedition to the 2014 uprising in Ferguson, American history has been made in St. Louis. And as Walter Johnson shows in this searing book, the city exemplifies how imperialism, racism, and capitalism have persistently entwined to corrupt the nation's past. St. Louis was a staging post for Indian removal and imperial expansion, and its wealth grew on the backs of its poor black residents, from slavery through redlining and urban renewal. But it was once also America's most radical city, home to anti-capitalist immigrants, the Civil War's first general emancipation, and the nation's first general strike—a legacy of resistance that endures. A blistering history of a city's rise and decline, *The Broken Heart of America* will forever change how we think about the United States.

america the book: American Gods Neil Gaiman, 2011-11-10 AN ACCLAIMED, EMMY-NOMINATED TV SERIES ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO WINNER OF THE HUGO, LOCUS AND BRAM STOKER AWARDS 'To give him his full title: Neil Gaiman, Architect of Worlds, Svengali of Plot, Shaman of Character, Exploder of Cliché, Master Craftsman of Style, Dreamer Laureate of the Republic of Letters' DAVID MITCHELL 'Original, engrossing, and endlessly inventive' GEORGE R.R. MARTIN 'Brilliant and unique' GUARDIAN --- 'This is about the soul of America, the idea that everyone came here from somewhere' NEIL GAIMAN --- After three years in prison, Shadow Moon is free to go home. But hours before his release, his beloved wife is killed in a freak accident. Numbly, he boards a plane where he meets an enigmatic stranger who seems to know Shadow and claims to be an ancient god - and king of America. Together they embark on a profoundly strange road trip across the USA, encountering a kaleidoscopic cast of characters along the way. But all around them a storm of unnatural proportions is gathering. War is coming, an epic struggle for the very soul of America. And Shadow is standing squarely in its path. NEIL GAIMAN. WITH STORIES COME POSSIBILITIES.

america the book: Caste Isabel Wilkerson, 2023-02-14 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK • "An instant American classic and almost certainly the keynote nonfiction book of the American century thus far."—Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* The Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions—now with a new Afterword by the author. #1 NONFICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR: Time ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, NPR, Bloomberg, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Post*, *The New York Public Library*, *Fortune*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Marie Claire*, *Slate*, *Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews* Winner of the Carl Sandberg Literary Award •

Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize • National Book Award Longlist • National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist • Dayton Literary Peace Prize Finalist • PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction Finalist • PEN/Jean Stein Book Award Longlist • Kirkus Prize Finalist “As we go about our daily lives, caste is the wordless usher in a darkened theater, flashlight cast down in the aisles, guiding us to our assigned seats for a performance. The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power—which groups have it and which do not.” In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched, and beautifully written narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people’s lives and behavior and the nation’s fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball’s Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their outcasting of the Jews; she discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; she writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity. Original and revealing, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* is an eye-opening story of people and history, and a reexamination of what lies under the surface of ordinary lives and of American life today.

america the book: *I Am America* Charles R. Smith (Jr.), Charles R. Smith, 2003 Photographs and rhyming text describe children growing up in America today.

america the book: America's Book Mark A. Noll, 2022 This book shows how the Bible decisively shaped American national history even as that history decisively influenced the use of Scripture. It explores the rise of a strongly Protestant Bible civilization in the early United States that was then fractured by debates over slavery, contested by growing numbers of non-Protestant Americans (Catholics, Jews, agnostics), and torn apart by the Civil War. Scripture survived as a significant, though fragmented, force in the more religiously plural period from Reconstruction to the early twentieth century. Throughout, the book pays special attention to how the same Bible shone as hope for black Americans while supporting other Americans who justified white supremacy--

america the book: America Again Stephen Colbert, 2012-10-02 Book store nation, in the history of mankind there has never been a greater country than America. You could say we're the #1 nation at being the best at greatness. But as perfect as America is in every single way, America is broken! And we can't exchange it because we're 236 years past the 30-day return window. Look around--we don't make anything anymore, we've mortgaged our future to China, and the Apologist-in-Chief goes on world tours just to bow before foreign leaders. Worse, the L.A. Four Seasons Hotel doesn't even have a dedicated phone button for the Spa. You have to dial an extension! Where did we lose our way?! It's high time we restored America to the greatness it never lost! Luckily, America Again will singlebookedly pull this country back from the brink. It features everything from chapters, to page numbers, to fonts. Covering subject's ranging from healthcare (I shudder to think where we'd be without the wide variety of prescription drugs to treat our maladies, such as think-shuddering) to the economy (Life is giving us lemons, and we're shipping them to the Chinese to make our lemon-flavored leadonade) to food (Feel free to deep fry this book-it's a rich source of fiber), Stephen gives America the dose of truth it needs to get back on track.

america the book: The Decline of America David D. Schein, 2018-02-13 The Decline of America offers a carefully documented analysis of the last seventeen U.S. presidents. These men, eight Democrats and nine Republicans, have shaped the last 100 years, not only for America, but for

the world. Each president is profiled with unsparing scrutiny so we can see where it's all gone wrong. David Schein follows these critiques by proposing ways to improve America's outlook for the next 100 years—before it's too late.

america the book: The Book That Changed America Randall Fuller, 2018-01-02 A compelling portrait of a unique moment in American history when the ideas of Charles Darwin reshaped American notions about nature, religion, science and race “A lively and informative history.” – The New York Times Book Review Throughout its history America has been torn in two by debates over ideals and beliefs. Randall Fuller takes us back to one of those turning points, in 1860, with the story of the influence of Charles Darwin's just-published *On the Origin of Species* on five American intellectuals, including Bronson Alcott, Henry David Thoreau, the child welfare reformer Charles Loring Brace, and the abolitionist Franklin Sanborn. Each of these figures seized on the book's assertion of a common ancestry for all creatures as a powerful argument against slavery, one that helped provide scientific credibility to the cause of abolition. Darwin's depiction of constant struggle and endless competition described America on the brink of civil war. But some had difficulty aligning the new theory to their religious convictions and their faith in a higher power. Thoreau, perhaps the most profoundly affected all, absorbed Darwin's views into his mysterious final work on species migration and the interconnectedness of all living things. Creating a rich tableau of nineteenth-century American intellectual culture, as well as providing a fascinating biography of perhaps the single most important idea of that time, *The Book That Changed America* is also an account of issues and concerns still with us today, including racism and the enduring conflict between science and religion.

america the book: Jump-Starting America Jonathan Gruber, Simon Johnson, 2019-04-09 The untold story of how America once created the most successful economy the world has ever seen—and how we can do it again. The American economy glitters on the outside, but the reality is quite different. Job opportunities and economic growth are increasingly concentrated in a few crowded coastal enclaves. Corporations and investors are disproportionately developing technologies that benefit the wealthiest Americans in the most prosperous areas -- and destroying middle class jobs elsewhere. To turn this tide, we must look to a brilliant and all-but-forgotten American success story and embark on a plan that will create the industries of the future -- and the jobs that go with them. Beginning in 1940, massive public investment generated breakthroughs in science and technology that first helped win WWII and then created the most successful economy the world has ever seen. Private enterprise then built on these breakthroughs to create new industries -- such as radar, jet engines, digital computers, mobile telecommunications, life-saving medicines, and the internet-- that became the catalyst for broader economic growth that generated millions of good jobs. We lifted almost all boats, not just the yachts. Jonathan Gruber and Simon Johnson tell the story of this first American growth engine and provide the blueprint for a second. It's a visionary, pragmatic, sure-to-be controversial plan that will lead to job growth and a new American economy in places now left behind.

america the book: Measuring America Andro Linklater, 2003 The epic story of how the gigantic land of America acquired its unique shape across 3000 miles of territory, and how the largest land survey in history paved the way both for a colossal sale of property and for the embedding of democracy and the spirit of independence in the psyche of Americans. The sheer scale of it makes the measuring of America extraordinary. Beginning in 1785, it became the largest land survey in history stretching from the Ohio river to the Pacific coast and from Lake Erie to the Mexican border. It prepared the ground for the sale of almost two billion acres, and shaped landscapes and cities across the US more drastically than any event since the last ice age. Before the survey could begin, there had to be agreement about what kind of measurement should be used. What made the 18th-century debate so critical was the revolution taking place in Western thought as objective, scientific reasoning challenged the traditional, subjective view of the world. A battle began between those (like the British) supporting a centuries-old organic form of measurement (ounces and pounds, yards and acres) and the modernizers, like Thomas Jefferson, who backed a

system based on scientific observation. The effects of the measuring of America on the landscape and people (native and immigrant) were huge and long-lasting; the story itself an exotic blend of narrative history and popular science

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