

the american promise

the american promise stands as a powerful concept deeply embedded in the history, culture, and aspirations of the United States. This idea encompasses the belief in freedom, equality, and the opportunity for every individual to achieve success through hard work and determination. Throughout American history, the promise has inspired generations to fight for civil rights, economic prosperity, and social justice. As society evolves, so does the understanding of what the American promise means for individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole. In this comprehensive article, we will explore the origins and evolution of the American promise, its impact on society, challenges to its fulfillment, and the ways it continues to shape the future. Readers will gain insight into the significance of the American promise, its historical context, and why it remains a guiding principle for millions across the country.

- The Historical Origins of the American Promise
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The Historical Origins of the American Promise

The American promise traces its roots to the founding principles outlined in documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. These texts articulated ideals of liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness, setting the stage for a society built on opportunity. The American promise was not fully realized at the nation's birth, as many groups remained excluded from its benefits. Over time, however, movements for civil rights, abolition, and suffrage sought to expand the promise to all citizens, making it a unifying vision for progress and inclusion. The historical origins of the American promise reveal a dynamic journey toward greater justice and equality.

The Declaration of Independence

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence declared that "all men are created equal" and endowed with "unalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." These words formed the philosophical foundation for the American promise, inspiring generations to seek a society where everyone could thrive.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights

The Constitution and its amendments, particularly the Bill of Rights, established legal frameworks to protect individual freedoms. Although these rights were not immediately extended to all, they set important precedents for expanding the American promise over time.

Core Values Underpinning the American Promise

At the heart of the American promise are core values that have shaped its meaning and influence. These values include freedom, equality, opportunity, and justice. They have guided policy decisions, social movements, and cultural narratives, serving as benchmarks for evaluating progress toward national ideals.

Freedom and Liberty

Freedom is a central pillar of the American promise, encompassing both personal liberty and the right to self-determination. Americans have historically valued the ability to pursue their ambitions without undue restraint, making freedom a key motivator for innovation, creativity, and civic engagement.

Equality and Inclusion

The value of equality has driven efforts to eliminate discrimination based on race, gender, religion, and other factors. Inclusion remains essential for realizing the American promise, as social movements continue to advocate for equal rights and opportunities for all.

Opportunity and Social Mobility

A defining feature of the American promise is the belief that anyone, regardless of background, can achieve success through hard work and perseverance. This idea fuels the notion of the “American Dream” and underpins public policies focused on education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

- Freedom of speech and religion
- Equality under the law
- Access to education and economic opportunity

- Protection of civil rights

The American Promise in Practice: Successes and Challenges

The American promise has produced remarkable achievements while also confronting significant obstacles. Historical milestones, such as the abolition of slavery, the civil rights movement, and expanded voting rights, demonstrate progress toward fulfilling the promise. However, persistent challenges like income inequality, systemic discrimination, and barriers to social mobility reveal ongoing struggles. Exploring both successes and challenges provides a nuanced perspective on the American promise in practice.

Historic Achievements

Major social reforms have advanced the American promise, including the Emancipation Proclamation, the Civil Rights Act, and the Women's Suffrage movement. These accomplishments have expanded freedom and opportunity for millions, shaping the nation's identity.

Ongoing Challenges

Despite progress, issues such as poverty, racial injustice, gender inequality, and lack of access to quality education persist. These obstacles hinder the full realization of the American promise, requiring continued advocacy and reform.

The American Promise and Social Mobility

Social mobility is a critical aspect of the American promise, reflecting the ability of individuals to improve their socioeconomic status through education, hard work, and determination. The ideal of rising from humble beginnings to achieve success is central to the national narrative, reinforcing the belief in meritocracy and equal opportunity.

Education as a Pathway

Access to quality education is a cornerstone of social mobility. Policies aimed at expanding educational opportunities, reducing disparities, and increasing affordability help fulfill the American promise for future generations.

Economic Opportunity

Economic growth and innovation have historically enabled Americans to pursue new ventures and improve their lives. Entrepreneurship, job creation, and access to capital are essential components for advancing social mobility and strengthening the American promise.

Modern Interpretations of the American Promise

As society evolves, so does the meaning of the American promise. Modern interpretations focus on diversity, inclusion, and global leadership. The promise now encompasses not only traditional values but also commitments to environmental sustainability, technological advancement, and social equity.

Diversity and Inclusion

The American promise increasingly emphasizes the importance of embracing diversity and creating inclusive environments. Efforts to promote representation in government, business, and education reflect a broader understanding of what it means to fulfill the promise for all Americans.

Global Responsibility

Modern America recognizes its role in the global community, striving to uphold the promise of freedom and opportunity both domestically and abroad. International aid, diplomacy, and human rights advocacy are extensions of the national commitment to the American promise.

Challenges to Fulfilling the American Promise

Despite its enduring appeal, the American promise faces substantial challenges in the 21st century. Economic inequality, political polarization, and social unrest threaten to undermine progress. Addressing these issues is essential for ensuring that the promise remains attainable for future generations.

Economic Disparities

Income and wealth gaps have widened, limiting access to resources and opportunities for many Americans. Bridging these divides is crucial for restoring faith in the American promise and enabling upward mobility.

Systemic Inequality

Structural barriers in education, employment, and healthcare perpetuate disparities along lines of race, gender, and socioeconomic status. Overcoming systemic inequality is necessary to fully realize the American promise for all citizens.

Political and Social Divisions

Polarization and social fragmentation can erode trust in institutions and hinder collective action. Fostering unity, dialogue, and shared purpose is vital for maintaining the integrity of the American promise.

The American Promise and the Future

Looking forward, the American promise continues to inspire hope and action. Emerging movements for climate justice, technological innovation, and expanded civil rights demonstrate the enduring relevance of this ideal. The promise serves as a guiding principle for policymakers, activists, and everyday citizens working to create a more just, equitable, and prosperous society.

Role of Youth and Future Generations

Young Americans are playing a pivotal role in redefining and advancing the American promise. Through activism, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement, they are shaping the future and ensuring the promise remains vibrant and inclusive.

Innovation and Adaptation

Adapting the American promise to address contemporary challenges requires creativity and resilience. As society faces new obstacles, the commitment to freedom, equality, and opportunity will continue to drive progress and transformation.

Trending Questions and Answers about the American Promise

Q: What is the core meaning of the American promise?

A: The American promise represents the ideals of freedom, equality, and opportunity, affirming that anyone in the United States can achieve success through hard work and determination.

Q: How has the American promise evolved over time?

A: The American promise has expanded from its origins to include more diverse groups, as movements for civil rights, gender equality, and social justice have redefined its scope and meaning.

Q: What are the main challenges to fulfilling the American promise today?

A: Key challenges include economic inequality, systemic discrimination, political polarization, and limited access to quality education and healthcare.

Q: How does education impact the American promise?

A: Education is a fundamental pathway to social mobility and opportunity, enabling individuals to improve their lives and contribute to society, which helps fulfill the American promise.

Q: Why is diversity important to the American promise?

A: Embracing diversity ensures that the American promise is inclusive and accessible to all, promoting equality and strengthening the nation's social fabric.

Q: How do social movements shape the American promise?

A: Social movements advocate for expanded rights and opportunities, challenge injustice, and help transform the ideals of the American promise into reality for more Americans.

Q: What role does economic opportunity play in the American promise?

A: Economic opportunity allows individuals to pursue their ambitions and achieve financial stability, which is a central aspect of the American promise.

Q: Can the American promise be achieved for everyone?

A: While progress has been made, achieving the American promise for all requires ongoing effort to address inequalities and remove barriers to opportunity.

Q: How do future generations influence the American promise?

A: Youth and future generations drive change by redefining values, advocating for justice, and using innovation to overcome new challenges associated with the American promise.

Q: What is the relationship between the American dream and the American promise?

A: The American dream is closely linked to the American promise, expressing the belief that personal success and upward mobility are attainable for everyone in the United States.

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The American Promise: A Journey Through Ideals and Realities

The American promise. It's a phrase whispered in classrooms, shouted in protests, and debated in boardrooms. But what is the American promise? Is it a tangible reality, a shimmering ideal, or something in between? This blog post will delve deep into the heart of this complex concept, exploring its historical roots, its evolving interpretation, and its ongoing relevance in the 21st century. We'll examine both the triumphs and the failures of the American experiment, offering a nuanced perspective on this enduringly powerful idea. Prepare to question, to ponder, and ultimately, to form your own understanding of what the American promise truly means.

Historical Roots: From Revolution to Manifest Destiny

The American promise, in its earliest form, was born from revolution. The colonists, weary of British rule and yearning for self-governance, envisioned a nation built on liberty, equality, and opportunity. The Declaration of Independence, with its bold proclamation of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," laid the foundation for this idealistic vision. This wasn't simply a rejection of tyranny; it was an assertion of a new, radically different social contract.

The Expansion of the Promise: Westward Ho!

The 19th century saw a dramatic expansion of the American promise, inextricably linked to the

concept of Manifest Destiny. This belief—that the United States was destined to expand its dominion across the North American continent—fueled westward expansion, but also brought with it brutal realities of displacement and violence against Native American populations. The promise of land ownership and opportunity for some came at the terrible cost of others. This era highlights the inherent contradictions within the promise itself: a simultaneous aspiration for progress and a brutal disregard for the rights of marginalized groups.

The 20th Century: Progress, Paradox, and Civil Rights

The 20th century witnessed both monumental strides and agonizing setbacks in the pursuit of the American promise. The Progressive Era saw significant reforms aimed at addressing social and economic inequalities. However, the two World Wars, the Great Depression, and the ongoing struggle for racial equality exposed the deep-seated flaws in the system.

The Civil Rights Movement: A Defining Moment

The Civil Rights Movement stands as a pivotal moment in the redefinition of the American promise. The fight for equal rights for African Americans challenged the very foundation of the nation, forcing a reckoning with the hypocrisy of a nation proclaiming liberty and equality while systematically denying those rights to a significant portion of its population. The passage of landmark legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 marked significant progress, but the struggle continues to this day.

The American Promise in the 21st Century: New Challenges, Old Struggles

The American promise in the 21st century faces new challenges in a rapidly changing global landscape. Economic inequality, political polarization, and ongoing struggles for social justice continue to test the nation's commitment to its founding ideals. Immigration debates, healthcare access, and climate change are just some of the issues that shape our understanding of what the American promise means today.

Redefining the Promise: A Work in Progress

The American promise is not a static entity; it is a living, breathing ideal that evolves with each generation. It requires constant re-evaluation, constant striving, and a willingness to confront the

uncomfortable truths of our history. The ongoing debate over its meaning is a testament to its enduring power and its persistent relevance. It's a promise that demands constant vigilance and a persistent commitment to its ideals.

Conclusion: The Enduring Power of an Ideal

The American promise is more than just a collection of words; it's a powerful narrative that has shaped the nation's identity and its trajectory throughout history. While the realization of that promise has been uneven and often marred by injustice, the very pursuit of it has driven progress and reform. Understanding the complexities and contradictions inherent in the American promise is crucial to navigating the challenges of the present and shaping a more just and equitable future. The ongoing dialogue surrounding this ideal is a testament to its enduring relevance and the ongoing quest for a more perfect union.

FAQs:

1. Is the American Promise achievable? The achievability of the American promise is a matter of ongoing debate. While complete equality and opportunity may remain elusive ideals, the pursuit of them drives progress and reform.
2. How has the American Promise changed over time? The American promise has evolved significantly since its inception, adapting to changing social, economic, and political realities. Initially focused on individual liberty and self-governance, it now encompasses broader concepts of equality, justice, and opportunity for all.
3. What are the biggest challenges facing the American Promise today? Significant challenges include economic inequality, political polarization, systemic racism, climate change, and healthcare access.
4. How can we contribute to fulfilling the American Promise? Active participation in civic life, advocating for social justice, and working towards a more equitable society are crucial steps in fulfilling the American promise.
5. Is the American Promise relevant in a globalized world? The American promise, while rooted in a national context, resonates globally as a powerful aspiration for liberty, equality, and opportunity. Its principles continue to inspire movements for social justice and human rights around the world.

the american promise: The American Promise, Volume 1 James L. Roark, Michael P. Johnson, Patricia Cline Cohen, Sarah Stage, Susan M. Hartmann, 2019-06-10 The American Promise has long been a course favorite. Students value The American Promise for its readability, clear chronology, and lively voices of ordinary Americans, while instructors rely upon the rich content, the many

documents and features, and the overall support for teaching their class their way. The American Promise provides superior formats for every use--the print book allows for a seamless reading experience while LaunchPad provides the right space for active learning assignments and dynamic course management tools that measure and analyze student progress. LaunchPad comes with a wealth of primary sources and special critical thinking activities to help students progress toward achieving learning outcomes; LearningCurve, the adaptive learning tool that students love to use to test their understanding of the text and instructors love to assign to prepare students for class; and a suite of instructor resources from videos to test banks that make teaching simpler and more effective.

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the american promise: Land of Promise Michael Lind, 2012-04-17 [An] ambitious economic history of the united States...rich with details. ?—David Leonhardt, New York Times Book Review How did a weak collection of former British colonies become an industrial, financial, and military colossus? From the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries, the American economy has been transformed by wave after wave of emerging technology: the steam engine, electricity, the internal combustion engine, computer technology. Yet technology-driven change leads to growing misalignment between an innovative economy and anachronistic legal and political structures until the gap is closed by the modernization of America's institutions—often amid upheavals such as the Civil War and Reconstruction and the Great Depression and World War II. When the U.S. economy has flourished, government and business, labor and universities, have worked together in a never-ending project of economic nation building. As the United States struggles to emerge from the Great Recession, Michael Lind clearly demonstrates that Americans, since the earliest days of the republic, have reinvented the American economy - and have the power to do so again.

the american promise: LBJ's American Promise Garth E. Pauley, 2006-12-01 Though Lyndon Johnson developed a reputation as a rough-hewn, arm-twisting deal-maker with a drawl, at a crucial moment in history he delivered an address to Congress that moved Martin Luther King Jr. to tears and earned praise from the media as the best presidential speech in American history. Even today, his voting rights address of 1965 ranks high not only in political significance, but also as an example of leadership through oratory. Garth E. Pauley carefully analyzes both the content and the context of this historic speech. He begins with an analysis of the less-than-linear path of voting rights in the United States, and highlights the failures and limited successes of previous legislation. Many commentators have seen Johnson's voting rights speech as a response to the escalating protests in Selma, and Pauley explores that connection. Did Johnson wait too long to address the issue? Would he have championed voting rights without the protests? Pauley traces the development of the speech and the policy with these questions in mind. He situates the speech not only within its immediate context but also within Johnson's ideology and value system, tracing the influences on Johnson's racial attitudes and describing the complex of policies he developed to address issues of inequality. Having set the stage for the address, Pauley then carefully analyzes the text itself. He charts the "authorship" of the speech through several drafts by aides, traces the purposefulness of the allusions, and recounts the extemporizing Johnson introduced when he actually delivered the

address. He notes the idealistic, even mythic dimensions of the speech, which contrast with its plainspoken style. Finally, Pauley gauges the effectiveness of the speech. He reports the response to the address in the media, among civil rights leaders, and in the general population. Pauley concludes with some reservations about the effectiveness not only of this address but also of the Johnson program for racial justice. Nonetheless, he believes that "Lyndon Johnson's 'We Shall Overcome' speech remains a remarkable achievement," combining principle with rhetorical leadership.

the american promise: More than Medicine Robert M. Kaplan, 2019-02-04 Stanford's pioneering behavioral scientist draws on a lifetime of research and experience guiding the NIH to make the case that America needs to radically rethink its approach to health care if it wants to stop overspending and overprescribing and improve people's lives. American science produces the best—and most expensive—medical treatments in the world. Yet U.S. citizens lag behind their global peers in life expectancy and quality of life. Robert Kaplan brings together extensive data to make the case that health care priorities in the United States are sorely misplaced. America's medical system is invested in attacking disease, but not in addressing the social, behavioral, and environmental problems that engender disease in the first place. Medicine is important, but many Americans act as though it were all important. The United States stakes much of its health funding on the promise of high-tech diagnostics and miracle treatments, while ignoring strong evidence that many of the most significant pathways to health are nonmedical. Americans spend millions on drugs for high cholesterol, which increase life expectancy by only six to eight months on average. But they underfund education, which might extend life expectancy by as much as twelve years. Wars on infectious disease have paid off, but clinical trials for chronic conditions—costing billions—rarely confirm that new treatments extend life. Meanwhile, the National Institutes of Health spends just 3 percent of its budget on research on the social and behavioral determinants of health, even though these factors account for 50 percent of premature deaths. America's failure to take prevention seriously costs lives. *More than Medicine* argues that we need a shakeup in how we invest resources, and it offers a bold new vision for longer, healthier living.

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the american promise: *Promise and Peril* Christopher McKnight Nichols, 2011-08-11

Spreading democracy abroad or protecting business at home: this book offers a new look at the history of the contest between isolationism and internationalism that is as current as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and as old as America itself, with profiles of the people, policies, and events that shaped the debate.

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the american promise: *When the Stars Begin to Fall* Theodore R. Johnson, 2022-06-21 A bold, thought-provoking pathway to the national solidarity that could, finally, address the ills of racism in America Racism is an existential threat to America, Theodore R. Johnson declares at the start of his profound and exhilarating book. It is a refutation of the American Promise enshrined in our

Constitution that all men and women are inherently equal. And yet racism continues to corrode our society. If we cannot overcome it, Johnson argues, while the United States will remain as a geopolitical entity, the promise that made America unique on Earth will have died. When the Stars Begin to Fall makes a compelling, ambitious case for a pathway to the national solidarity necessary to mitigate racism. Weaving memories of his own and his family's multi-generational experiences with racism, alongside strands of history, into his elegant narrative, Johnson posits that a blueprint for national solidarity can be found in the exceptional citizenship long practiced in Black America. Understanding that racism is a structural crime of the state, he argues that overcoming it requires us to recognize that a color-conscious society--not a color-blind one--is the true fulfillment of the American Promise. Fueled by Johnson's ultimate faith in the American project, grounded in his family's longstanding optimism and his own military service, When the Stars Begin to Fall is an urgent call to undertake the process of overcoming what has long seemed intractable.

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the american promise: *American Literary Realism and the Failed Promise of Contract* Brook Thomas, 2023-04-28 This title is part of UC Press's Voices Revived program, which commemorates University of California Press's mission to seek out and cultivate the brightest minds and give them voice, reach, and impact. Drawing on a backlist dating to 1893, Voices Revived makes high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship accessible once again using print-on-demand technology. This title was originally published in `1997.

the american promise: *Thomas Paine and the Promise of America* Harvey J. Kaye, 2007-04-15 This acclaimed biography "provides the most comprehensive assessment yet of [the Founding Father's] controversial reputation" (Joseph J. Ellis, *The New York Times Book Review*).

After leaving London for Philadelphia in 1774, Thomas Paine became one of the most influential political writers of the modern world and the greatest radical of a radical age. Through writings like *Common Sense*, he not only turned America's colonial rebellion into a revolutionary war but, as Harvey J. Kaye demonstrates, articulated an American identity charged with exceptional purpose and promise. *Thomas Paine and the Promise of America* fiercely traces the revolutionary spirit that runs through American history—and demonstrates how that spirit is rooted in Paine's legacy. With passion and wit, Kaye shows how Paine turned Americans into radicals—and how we have remained radicals ever since.

the american promise: *A Good American Family* David Maraniss, 2020-11-10 Pulitzer Prize-winning author and "one of our most talented biographers and historians" (The New York Times) David Maraniss delivers a "thoughtful, poignant, and historically valuable story of the Red Scare of the 1950s" (The Wall Street Journal) through the chilling yet affirming story of his family's ordeal, from blacklisting to vindication. Elliott Maraniss, David's father, a WWII veteran who had commanded an all-black company in the Pacific, was spied on by the FBI, named as a communist by an informant, called before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1952, fired from his newspaper job, and blacklisted for five years. Yet he never lost faith in America and emerged on the other side with his family and optimism intact. In a sweeping drama that moves from the Depression and Spanish Civil War to the HUAC hearings and end of the McCarthy era, Maraniss weaves his father's story through the lives of his inquisitors and defenders as they struggle with the vital 20th-century issues of race, fascism, communism, and first amendment freedoms. "Remarkably balanced, forthright, and unwavering in its search for the truth" (The New York Times), *A Good American Family* evokes the political dysfunctions of the 1950s while underscoring what it really means to be an American. It is "clear-eyed and empathetic" (Publishers Weekly, starred review) tribute from a brilliant writer to his father and the family he protected in dangerous times.

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Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars One of my all-time FAVORITE books!!!!!!! Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars I didn't want it to end... always kept me in suspense... truly brilliant and I loved every second... absolutely fantastic. Charlotte's Book Corner Read it OVER and OVER. Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars Made me laugh, cry and feel all the range of emotions. Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars My favorite book of all time. Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars A week doesn't go by that this book doesn't pop into my head. A great story. Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars I had a hard time putting it down and lost more than an hour or two of sleep. Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars This book has an extra special place in my heart... A historical romance in the vein of Outlander (except without the time travel). Goodreads reviewer, 5 stars

the american promise: Indigenous Languages and the Promise of Archives Adrianna Link, Abigail Shelton, Patrick Spero, 2021-05 The collection explores new applications of the American Philosophical Society's library materials as scholars seek to partner on collaborative projects, often through the application of digital technologies, that assist ongoing efforts at cultural and linguistic revitalization movements within Native communities.

the american promise: *The Promise of the East* Christian Ingrao, 2019-03-05 How did the Nazis imagine their victory and the subsequent 'Thousand-Year Reich'? Between 1939 and 1943, the Nazi imperial Utopia started to take shape in the conquered areas of Eastern Europe, brutally emptied of their inhabitants, who were displaced, reduced to slavery and, in the case of the Jews and a considerable number of Slavs, murdered. This Utopia had its engineers, its agencies and its pioneers (no fewer than 27,000 Germans, most of them young). It aroused fervent support. In the Thousand-Year Reich, with its borders extended by conquest, a racially pure community would soon live a life of peace and prosperity, in total harmony. In this book, renowned historian Christian Ingrao draws on extensive archival material to shed new light on this movement and explain how it could prove so appealing, examining the coherence and the inner contradictions of the activities undertaken by the different institutions, the careers of the women and men who played a part in them, and the ambitious plans that were drawn up. Ingrao adopts a social anthropological point of view to investigate the emotions aroused by the Nazi dream, and describes not just the hatred and the anxieties it fed on but also the joys and expectations it created – two sides of a single reality. As we learn from the terrible violence unleashed across the region of Zamość, on the border between Poland and Ukraine, the hopes of the Nazis became a nightmare for the native populations. This important work reveals an aspect of Nazism that is often overlooked and greatly extends our understanding of the general framework in which the Holocaust was realized. It will find a wide audience among students and scholars of modern German history and among a broad general readership.

the american promise: *The Lost Promise* Ellen Schrecker, 2021-12-17 Ellen Schrecker shows how universities shaped the 1960s, and how the 1960s shaped them. Teach-ins and walkouts-in institutions large and small, across both the country and the political spectrum-were only the first actions that came to redefine universities as hotbeds of unrest for some and handmaidens of oppression for others. The tensions among speech, education, and institutional funding came into focus as never before-and the reverberations remain palpable today--

the american promise: *The False Promise of Liberal Order* Patrick Porter, 2020-05-11 In an age of demagogues, hostile great powers and trade wars, foreign policy traditionalists dream of restoring liberal international order. This order, they claim, ushered in seventy years of peace and prosperity and saw post-war America domesticate the world to its values. The False Promise of Liberal Order exposes the flaws in this nostalgic vision. The world shaped by America came about as a result of coercion and, sometimes brutal, compromise. Liberal projects – to spread capitalist democracy – led inadvertently to illiberal results. To make peace, America made bargains with authoritarian forces. Even in the Pax Americana, the gentlest order yet, ordering was rough work. As its power grew, Washington came to believe that its order was exceptional and even permanent – a mentality that has led to spiralling deficits, permanent war and Trump. Romanticizing the liberal order makes it harder to adjust to today's global disorder. Only by confronting the false promise of

liberal order and adapting to current realities can the United States survive as a constitutional republic in a plural world.

the american promise: Letter to the Americans Jean Cocteau, 2022-06-07 Like Alexis de Tocqueville a century earlier, Jean Cocteau offers a powerful reminder to Americans of their own potential—and issues In 1949, Jean Cocteau spent twenty days in New York, and began composing on the plane ride home this essay filled with the vivid impressions of his trip. With his unmistakable prose and graceful wit, he compares and contrasts French and American culture: the different values they place on art, literature, liberty, psychology, and dreams. Cocteau sees the incredibly buoyant hopes in America's promise, while at the same time warning of the many ills that the nation will have to confront—its hypocrisy, sexism, racism, and hegemonic aspirations—in order to realize this potential. Never before translated into English, *Letter to the Americans* remains as timely and urgent as when it was first published in France over seventy years ago.

the american promise: The American Promise James L. Roark, 2012 You can have it all! A mid-sized alternative, *The American Promise: A Compact History* is the perfect compromise for instructors who want all the features of a full-length text in an affordable format. Condensed by the authors to deliver the latest scholarship in an engaging, flexible format, the fourth edition includes a lavish visual and special features program, study tools that rival any survey text, and a memorable narrative enlivened by the voices of hundreds of Americans.

the american promise: The Lost Promise of Patriotism Jonathan M. Hansen, 2010-03-15 During the years leading up to World War I, America experienced a crisis of civic identity. How could a country founded on liberal principles and composed of increasingly diverse cultures unite to safeguard individuals and promote social justice? In this book, Jonathan Hansen tells the story of a group of American intellectuals who believed the solution to this crisis lay in rethinking the meaning of liberalism. Intellectuals such as William James, John Dewey, Jane Addams, Eugene V. Debs, and W. E. B. Du Bois repudiated liberalism's association with acquisitive individualism and laissez-faire economics, advocating a model of liberal citizenship whose virtues and commitments amount to what Hansen calls cosmopolitan patriotism. Rooted not in war but in dedication to social equity, cosmopolitan patriotism favored the fight against sexism, racism, and political corruption in the United States over battles against foreign foes. Its adherents held the domestic and foreign policy of the United States to its own democratic ideals and maintained that promoting democracy universally constituted the ultimate form of self-defense. Perhaps most important, the cosmopolitan patriots regarded critical engagement with one's country as the essence of patriotism, thereby justifying scrutiny of American militarism in wartime.

the american promise: American Poison Eduardo Porter, 2020-03-17 A sweeping examination of how American racism has broken the country's social compact, eroded America's common goods, and damaged the lives of every American--and a heartfelt look at how these deep wounds might begin to heal. Compared to other industrialized nations, the United States is losing ground across nearly every indicator of social health. Its race problem, argues Eduardo Porter, is largely to blame. In *American Poison*, the New York Times veteran shows how racial animus has stunted the development of nearly every institution crucial for a healthy society, including organized labor, public education, and the social safety net. The consequences are profound and are only growing graver with time. Leading us through history and across America--from FDR's New Deal through Bill Clinton's welfare reform to Donald Trump's retrograde and divisive policies--Porter pieces together how racial hostility has blocked American social cohesion at every turn, producing a nation that fails not only its black and brown citizens but white Americans as well. *American Poison* is at once a broad, rigorous argument, and a profound *cri de coeur*. Even as it uncovers our most tenacious national pathology, it points the way toward hope, illuminating the ways in which, as the nation becomes increasingly diverse, it may well be possible to construct a new understanding of racial identity--and a more cohesive society on top of it.

the american promise: The Promise of the New South Edward L. Ayers, 2007-09-07 At a public picnic in the South in the 1890s, a young man paid five cents for his first chance to hear the

revolutionary Edison talking machine. He eagerly listened as the soundman placed the needle down, only to find that through the tubes he held to his ears came the chilling sounds of a lynching. In this story, with its blend of new technology and old hatreds, genteel picnics and mob violence, Edward Ayers captures the history of the South in the years between Reconstruction and the turn of the century. Ranging from the Georgia coast to the Tennessee mountains, from the power brokers to tenant farmers, Ayers depicts a land of startling contrasts. Ayers takes us from remote Southern towns, revolutionized by the spread of the railroads, to the statehouses where Democratic Redeemers swept away the legacy of Reconstruction; from the small farmers, trapped into growing nothing but cotton, to the new industries of Birmingham; from abuse and intimacy in the family to tumultuous public meetings of the prohibitionists. He explores every aspect of society, politics, and the economy, detailing the importance of each in the emerging New South. Central to the entire story is the role of race relations, from alliances and friendships between blacks and whites to the spread of Jim Crow laws and disfranchisement. The teeming nineteenth-century South comes to life in these pages. When this book first appeared in 1992, it won a broad array of prizes and was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. The citation for the National Book Award declared *Promise of the New South* a vivid and masterfully detailed picture of the evolution of a new society. The Atlantic called it one of the broadest and most original interpretations of southern history of the past twenty years.

the american promise: *The Color of a Promise* Julianne MacLean, 2016-07-28 From USA Today bestselling author Julianne MacLean comes the next instalment in her popular Color of Heaven Series, where people are affected by real life magic and miracles that change everything they once believed about life and love. Having spent a lifetime in competition with his older brother Aaron—who always seemed to get the girl—Jack Peterson leaves the U.S. to become a foreign correspondent in the Middle East. When a roadside bomb forces him to return home to recover from his wounds, he quickly becomes the most celebrated journalist on television, and is awarded his own prime time news program. Now, wealthy and successful beyond his wildest dreams, Jack believes he has finally found where he is meant to be. But when a 747 explodes in the sky over his summer house in Cape Elizabeth, all hell breaks loose as the wreckage crashes to the ground. He has no idea that his life is about to take another astonishing turn... Meg Andrews grew up with a fear of flying, but when it meant she wouldn't be able to visit her boyfriend on the opposite side of the country, she confronted her fear head-on and earned her pilot's license. Now, a decade later, she is a respected airline crash investigator, passionate about her work, to the point of obsession. When she arrives in the picturesque seaside community of Cape Elizabeth to investigate a massive airline disaster, she meets the famous and charismatic Jack Peterson, who has his own personal fascination with plane crashes. As the investigation intensifies, Meg and Jack feel a powerful, inexplicable connection to each other. Soon, they realize that the truth behind the crash—and the mystery of their connection—can only be discovered through the strength of the human spirit, the timeless bonds of family, and the gift of second chances. Praise for the novels in the Color of Heaven Series: "I never know what to say about a Julianne MacLean book, except to say YOU HAVE TO READ IT. - AllRomanceReader.ca The Color of Time is an emotionally charged, riveting exploration of how our lives may change within the scope of a single event. And sometimes what we want isn't always what we need. Fabulous, thought-provoking read. — Tanya Anne Crosby, New York Times bestselling author I was so pulled into this story I thought at times I WAS the character. Julianne MacLean certainly grabbed me with this book. I absolutely loved it! ...It all felt so real. It's like Alice falling through the rabbit hole, I got to live out someone else's life if only through my own imagination. - Micky at Goodreads Wow! This is one of those I couldn't put it down books. The penny dropped right at the end of this amazing story as to why it is titled The Color of Forever. Believe me when I say that this is a page turner like you have never read before. - Zena at Goodreads It makes the reader think about what could have been, and loves past, and makes you wonder if you are leading the life you're meant to be leading. Thought-provoking, emotionally-intense and riveting, Ms. MacLean delivers another 5-star romance in The Color of Forever - Nancy at Goodreads There are just not

enough words for me to explain how much I loved this book! - Debi at Goodreads

the american promise: The Failed Promise of the American High School, 1890-1995 David L. Angus, Jeffrey Mirel, 1999 This provocative new study of the American high school examines the historical debates about curriculum policy and also traces changes in the institution itself, as evidenced by what students actually studied. Contrary to conventional accounts, the authors argue that beginning in the 1930s, American high schools shifted from institutions primarily concerned with academic and vocational education to institutions mainly focused on custodial care of adolescents. Claiming that these changes reflected educators' racial, class, and gender biases, the authors offer original suggestions for policy adjustments that may lead to greater educational equality for our ever-growing and ever more diverse population of students.

the american promise: The Promise of the Suburbs Sarah Bilston, 2019-02-05 A study of the fast-growing Victorian suburbs as places of connection, creativity, and professional advance, especially for women From the earliest decades of the nineteenth century, the suburbs were maligned by the aristocratic elite as dull zones of low cultural ambition and vulgarity, as well as generally female spaces isolated from the consequential male world of commerce. Sarah Bilston argues that these attitudes were forged to undermine the cultural authority of the emerging middle class and to reinforce patriarchy by trivializing women's work. Resisting these stereotypes, Bilston reveals how suburban life offered ambitious women, especially women writers, access to supportive communities and opportunities for literary and artistic experimentation as well as professional advancement. From more familiar figures such as the sensation author Mary Elizabeth Braddon to interior design journalist Jane Ellen Panton and garden writer Jane Loudon, this work presents a more complicated portrait of how women and English society at large navigated a fast-growing, rapidly changing landscape.

the american promise: The Promise of Early Childhood Development in Latin America and the Caribbean Emiliana Vegas, Lucrecia Santib ez, 2009-12-03 Early childhood development outcomes play an important role throughout a person's life, affecting one's income-earning capacity and productivity, longevity, health, and cognitive ability. The deleterious effects of poor early childhood development outcomes can be long-lasting, affecting school attainment, employment, wages, criminality, and social integration of adults. The authors first take stock of early childhood development indicators in the region and explore access to early childhood development services for children of different backgrounds. They review recent evidence on the impact of early childhood development interventions in the region and investigate more deeply a selection of programs in Latin America and the Caribbean to distill lessons related to their design, implementation and institutionalization processes. The book concludes with a discussion of the challenges of scaling up and presents policy options to develop national early childhood development policies and programs that may be effective and sustained over time.

the american promise: Overdosed America John Abramson, 2005-06-14 Using the examples of Vioxx, Celebrex, cholesterol-lowering statin drugs, and anti-depressants, Overdosed America shows that at the heart of the current crisis in American medicine lies the commercialization of medical knowledge itself. Drawing on his background in statistics, epidemiology, and health policy, John Abramson, M.D., an award-winning family doctor on the clinical faculty at Harvard Medical School, reveals the ways in which the drug companies have misrepresented statistical evidence, misled doctors, and compromised our health. The good news is that the best scientific evidence shows that reclaiming responsibility for your own health is often far more effective than taking the latest blockbuster drug. You -- and your doctor -- will be stunned by this unflinching exposé of American medicine.

the american promise: Reading the American Past: Volume II: From 1865 Michael P. Johnson, 2012-01-05 With five carefully selected documents per chapter, this two-volume primary source reader presents a wide range of documents representing political, social, and cultural history in a manageable, accessible way. Thirty-two new documents infuse the collection with the voices of an even wider range of historical actors. Expertly edited by Michael P. Johnson, one of the authors of

The American Promise, the readings can be used to spark discussion in any classroom and fit into any syllabus. Headnotes and discussion questions help students approach the documents, and comparative questions encourage students to make connections across documents. Reading the American Past is FREE when packaged with The American Promise, The American Promise: A Compact History, and Understanding the American Promise. For more information on the reader or on package ISBNs, please contact your local sales representative or [click here](#)

the american promise: The American Promise Arthur I. Blaustein, 1982-01-01 This forcefully argued and carefully documented report by the National Advisory Council on Economic Opportunity criticizes the Reagan Economic Recovery Program on the basis that it separates economic theory from social policy, pursuing the former at the expense of the latter, which hurts the poor and could lead to social chaos. This controversial volume also argues that the current policy proposals for the 1980s ignore national standards of responsibility and accountability.

the american promise: Change We Can Believe in , 2009 The election of Barack Obama as President of the USA is a defining moment for all of us. After years of failed policies and a failed politics from Washington, change has arrived. Barack Obama now has the chance to reclaim the American dream. 'Change We Can Believe In' outlines his vision for America and its standing in the world.

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