

these truths jill lepore

these truths jill lepore is a phrase that has come to symbolize a sweeping exploration of American history and identity. In this comprehensive article, we delve into Jill Lepore's influential work, "These Truths: A History of the United States," examining its major themes, critical reception, and impact on contemporary historical discourse. Readers will gain insight into Lepore's approach to retelling the American narrative, her emphasis on political ideals, and the book's place among modern history texts. This article will also discuss the structure of Lepore's book, key figures and events highlighted, and how "these truths jill lepore" addresses ongoing questions about democracy, equality, and nationhood. Whether you are a student, educator, or avid history reader, this article provides a thorough and SEO-optimized guide to understanding the significance of Jill Lepore's acclaimed work. Continue reading to uncover the essential truths that shape the United States, as dissected by one of the nation's leading historians.

- Overview of "These Truths" by Jill Lepore
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Overview of "These Truths" by Jill Lepore

"These Truths: A History of the United States" by Jill Lepore is a landmark single-volume history that traces the American story from its colonial beginnings to the present day. Published in 2018, this book aims to answer profound questions about the nature of American democracy, the meaning of liberty, and the evolution of national identity. Lepore crafts a narrative that interweaves political, social, and technological developments, providing readers with a nuanced understanding of what has shaped the United States.

The phrase "these truths" is borrowed from the Declaration of Independence, signifying the core ideals upon which the nation was founded: political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. Throughout the book, Lepore interrogates how these truths have been upheld or contradicted across different periods, offering a fresh perspective on

familiar events and figures. "These Truths" stands out for its readable prose, comprehensive scope, and commitment to examining both triumphs and failures in American history.

Jill Lepore: Author Background and Approach

Academic Credentials and Writing Style

Jill Lepore is a renowned historian, professor at Harvard University, and staff writer for The New Yorker. Her expertise in American history, combined with a talent for accessible storytelling, has made her one of the most respected voices in the field. Lepore's approach is scholarly yet engaging, blending rigorous research with narrative flair.

Philosophy and Motivation Behind the Book

Lepore wrote "These Truths" in response to contemporary challenges facing American democracy and to bridge the gap between academic history and public understanding. She believes in the power of historical knowledge to inform civic dialogue and decision-making. By revisiting foundational principles and their evolution, Lepore invites readers to reflect on their meaning in today's context.

Main Themes and Structure of the Book

Exploring the "Truths" of American Democracy

At the core of "these truths jill lepure" lies an exploration of three central ideals: political equality, natural rights, and popular sovereignty. Lepore examines how these principles were articulated during the nation's founding and how they have been tested, reinterpreted, and sometimes neglected over the centuries. The book scrutinizes moments of progress and setbacks in the pursuit of these truths, offering a balanced analysis that acknowledges complexity and contradiction.

Organization and Narrative Structure

The book is divided into four main parts, each corresponding to a major period in American history:

- The Idea (1492–1799): The founding ideals and colonial origins
- The People (1800–1865): Expansion, democracy, and the Civil War

- The State (1866–1945): Reconstruction, industrialization, and global conflict
- The Machine (1946–2016): The modern era and the rise of technology

This structure enables Lepore to trace the evolution of American society, politics, and technology with clarity and context, making the book accessible to a wide audience.

Key Historical Periods and Events Explored

Colonial Foundations and Revolution

"These Truths" begins by examining the roots of American society, including indigenous cultures, European colonization, and the revolutionary movement. Lepore highlights the contradictions between the ideals of liberty and the realities of slavery and exclusion from the outset.

The Civil War and Reconstruction

A significant portion of the book covers the Civil War, the abolition of slavery, and the challenges of Reconstruction. Lepore analyzes how the nation struggled to redefine citizenship, rights, and national unity during this turbulent period.

Twentieth-Century Transformations

The twentieth century brought profound social, political, and technological changes. Lepore explores the impact of industrialization, the world wars, civil rights movements, and the rise of mass media on American identity and democracy.

The Digital Age and Contemporary America

In the final sections, Lepore addresses the influence of computers, the internet, and social media on politics and public life. She considers how technological advancements have shaped discourse, participation, and the challenges facing democracy in the twenty-first century.

Impact on Historical Scholarship and Public

Discourse

Contributions to Understanding American History

"These Truths" has been praised for its comprehensive scope and ability to synthesize vast amounts of historical research into a coherent narrative. Lepore's work challenges readers to reconsider familiar stories and engage critically with the nation's past, making it a valuable resource for scholars, educators, and general readers alike.

Influence on Public Conversations

By emphasizing the enduring relevance of foundational ideals, "these truths jill lepore" contributes to contemporary debates about democracy, citizenship, and inclusion. The book is frequently cited in discussions about American identity and the responsibilities of citizenship, illustrating its impact beyond academic circles.

Critical Reception and Reviews

Response from Historians and Critics

"These Truths" received widespread acclaim from historians, literary critics, and general audiences. Reviewers have highlighted Lepore's engaging prose, balanced analysis, and ability to connect historical events to current issues. The book has been described as both accessible for newcomers and insightful for seasoned readers of American history.

Awards and Recognition

The book was a finalist for several prestigious awards, including the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction. It was also recognized as a New York Times Notable Book and featured on numerous "best books of the year" lists, marking its significance in the field of historical writing.

Why "These Truths" Matters Today

Relevance to Modern Readers

In an era of political polarization and debates over historical memory, "these truths jill lepore" offers a vital reminder of the principles that unite and challenge Americans. By

tracing the nation's ongoing struggle to live up to its founding ideals, Lepore's book encourages readers to reflect on the meaning of citizenship, the value of historical perspective, and the importance of informed civic engagement.

- Provides context for current debates on democracy and rights
- Highlights both progress and persistent challenges in American society
- Promotes historical literacy and critical thinking
- Encourages dialogue about the future of American democracy

By revisiting the nation's history through the lens of its founding truths, Jill Lepore's work remains a timely and influential contribution to understanding the complex tapestry of the United States.

Frequently Asked Questions about "These Truths" by Jill Lepore

Q: What is the main focus of "These Truths" by Jill Lepore?

A: The book examines the history of the United States through the lens of its founding ideals—political equality, natural rights, and popular sovereignty—analyzing how these principles have shaped and been challenged throughout American history.

Q: Who is Jill Lepore?

A: Jill Lepore is a professor of American history at Harvard University and a staff writer for The New Yorker, known for her accessible and scholarly approach to historical writing.

Q: Why is the book titled "These Truths"?

A: The title references the phrase from the Declaration of Independence, highlighting the core values upon which the United States was founded and exploring how those truths have endured or evolved over time.

Q: How is "These Truths" structured?

A: The book is divided into four main parts, each covering major periods in American history: The Idea, The People, The State, and The Machine.

Q: What makes "These Truths" different from other American history books?

A: Jill Lepore's book stands out for its narrative style, comprehensive coverage, focus on political ideals, and its integration of social, cultural, and technological developments.

Q: Is "These Truths" suitable for general readers or only historians?

A: The book is written to be accessible to both general readers and scholars, making it suitable for anyone interested in understanding American history.

Q: What historical periods does "These Truths" cover?

A: "These Truths" spans from the colonial era and the founding of the United States to the modern digital age, covering over 500 years of history.

Q: Has "These Truths" received any awards or recognitions?

A: Yes, the book was a finalist for major literary awards, including the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, and was named a New York Times Notable Book.

Q: What are some key themes discussed in the book?

A: Major themes include the evolution of democracy, struggles over civil rights, the role of technology in society, and the ongoing effort to realize the nation's founding ideals.

Q: How does "These Truths" relate to current events?

A: The book draws connections between historical developments and contemporary issues, offering context for ongoing debates about democracy, rights, and the future of the United States.

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These Truths Jill Lepore: Unpacking History, Myth, and the American Identity

Are you fascinated by American history, but wary of simplistic narratives? Do you crave a deeper understanding of the complexities that shape our national identity? Then Jill Lepore's *These Truths* is a book you need to explore. This comprehensive analysis isn't just a recounting of historical events; it's a rigorous examination of how we construct our understanding of the past and how that understanding impacts our present. This post will delve into the core arguments of *These Truths*, exploring Lepore's insightful critiques and her powerful call for a more nuanced and critical approach to American history. We'll unpack key themes, offering a roadmap to understanding this essential work and its continuing relevance.

H2: Lepore's Central Argument: A History of American Exceptionalism Deconstructed

At the heart of *These Truths* lies Lepore's challenge to the pervasive myth of American exceptionalism. She doesn't dismiss the achievements of the United States, but rather meticulously dissects the narrative that frames these achievements as uniquely virtuous and inevitable. Lepore argues that this narrative, often rooted in a selective and romanticized view of the past, obscures crucial aspects of American history—its injustices, its contradictions, and its ongoing struggles with its founding ideals. She meticulously traces how this exceptionalist narrative has evolved, demonstrating how it has been manipulated and repurposed throughout different eras to serve various political and ideological agendas.

H2: The Power of Narrative and the Construction of National Identity

Lepore masterfully demonstrates how history isn't simply a collection of facts, but a constructed narrative. She explores the role of storytelling in shaping national identity, showing how selective emphasis on certain events and the omission of others creates a biased and often misleading picture. This section delves into the crucial role of historians and their responsibility in presenting a balanced and accurate account of the past, emphasizing the ethical implications of historical interpretation.

H3: The Importance of Critical Thinking in Understanding History

Lepore's work encourages a critical approach to historical narratives, urging readers to question the sources, motivations, and biases that shape our understanding of the past. This is not about rejecting patriotism, but about fostering a more nuanced and sophisticated understanding of the complexities of American history, allowing for a more honest and constructive engagement with the nation's past.

and present.

H2: Examining Key Moments Through a Critical Lens

These Truths doesn't shy away from confronting uncomfortable truths. Lepore examines pivotal moments in American history—from the American Revolution and the Constitution to the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement—analyzing them through the lens of her central argument. She exposes the inherent contradictions in the nation's founding principles and the ongoing struggle to live up to its ideals.

H3: The Founding Fathers: Idealism and Hypocrisy

Lepore doesn't shy away from portraying the Founding Fathers as complex individuals, acknowledging their contributions while also highlighting their flaws and hypocrisies. This nuanced perspective challenges the often-sanitized portrayals found in traditional historical accounts.

H3: The Civil War and its Unresolved Legacies

Lepore's analysis of the Civil War goes beyond the traditional narratives, exploring its enduring impact on American society and the ongoing struggle for racial justice. She connects the past to the present, demonstrating how the unresolved issues of the Civil War continue to shape contemporary American politics and social dynamics.

H2: The Relevance of These Truths in the 21st Century

Lepore's work is not just an academic exercise; it's a timely and crucial intervention in contemporary political discourse. In an era of increasing polarization and misinformation, her emphasis on historical accuracy and critical thinking is more vital than ever. Her book serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of engaging with history honestly and thoughtfully, to better understand the challenges facing America today.

Conclusion

These Truths by Jill Lepore is more than a history book; it's a call to critical engagement with the past. By challenging the simplistic narratives that often dominate our understanding of American history, Lepore provides a powerful framework for understanding the nation's complex and often contradictory identity. Her work is essential reading for anyone seeking a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the United States and its place in the world. It encourages a more informed and responsible citizenry, equipped to grapple with the complexities of the present by understanding the

intricacies of the past.

FAQs

1. What makes *These Truths* different from other books on American history? *These Truths* distinguishes itself through its rigorous critique of American exceptionalism and its focus on the constructed nature of historical narratives. Lepore challenges readers to actively question the stories they've been told.
2. Is *These Truths* a purely academic work? While meticulously researched and academically rigorous, *These Truths* is also highly accessible and engaging for a broad audience. Lepore's writing style is clear, concise, and compelling.
3. How does Lepore address the issue of presentism in historical analysis? Lepore acknowledges the inherent challenge of avoiding presentism, but she actively works to contextualize historical events within their specific time periods, avoiding anachronistic interpretations.
4. What are the main criticisms of *These Truths*? Some critics argue that Lepore's focus on deconstructing the exceptionalist narrative is overly critical and neglects the positive aspects of American history. Others find her interpretation of certain events debatable.
5. Why is *These Truths* considered important for contemporary readers? In an era of misinformation and political polarization, *These Truths* offers a crucial lesson in critical thinking and the importance of engaging with history in a thoughtful and nuanced way. It provides a framework for understanding the complexities of the present by examining the legacies of the past.

these truths jill lepure: [These Truths: A History of the United States](#) Jill Lepore, 2018-09-18
"Nothing short of a masterpiece." —NPR Books A New York Times Bestseller and a Washington Post Notable Book of the Year In the most ambitious one-volume American history in decades, award-winning historian Jill Lepore offers a magisterial account of the origins and rise of a divided nation. Widely hailed for its "sweeping, sobering account of the American past" (New York Times Book Review), Jill Lepore's one-volume history of America places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. The American experiment rests on three ideas—"these truths," Jefferson called them—political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. But has the nation, and democracy itself, delivered on that promise? *These Truths* tells this uniquely American story, beginning in 1492, asking whether the course of events over more than five centuries has proven the nation's truths, or belied them. To answer that question, Lepore wrestles with the state of American politics, the legacy of slavery, the persistence of inequality, and the nature of technological change. "A nation born in contradiction... will fight, forever, over the meaning of its history," Lepore writes, but engaging in that struggle by studying the past is part of the work of citizenship. With *These Truths*, Lepore has produced a book that will shape our view of American history for decades to come.

these truths jill lepure: *These Truths* Jill Lepore, 2023

these truths jill lepure: [These Truths](#) Jill Lepore, 2023 The United States was founded on a set of self-evident truths: political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. But how well has the nation—from its revolutionary birth to our fractious present—lived up to these founding

ideals? In an absorbing, character-driven narrative, acclaimed historian Jill Lepore engages this urgent question. Now expanded into a textbook, the Inquiry Edition is a new kind of history text—one that highlights the importance of analyzing evidence and practicing historical inquiry to help students develop civic skills relevant to their lives far beyond the course.--Provided by publisher.

these truths jill lepure: This America: The Case for the Nation Jill Lepore, 2019-08-08 'Jill Lepore is that rare combination in modern life of intellect, originality and style' Amanda Foreman 'A thoughtful and passionate defence of her vision of American patriotism' New York Times From the acclaimed New York Times bestselling historian, Jill Lepore, comes a bold new history of nationalism, and a plan for hope in the twenty-first century. With dangerous forms of nationalism on the rise, at a time of much despair over the future of liberal democracy, Harvard historian and New Yorker writer Jill Lepore makes a stirring case for the nation - and repudiates nationalism by explaining its long history. In part a primer on the origins of nations, *The Case for the Nation* explains how much of American history has been a battle between nationalism, liberal and illiberal, all the way down to the nation's latest, bitter struggles over immigration. Defending liberalism, as *The Case for the Nation* demonstrates, requires making the case for the nation. But American historians largely abandoned that defense in the 1960s when they stopped writing national history. By the 1980s they'd stopped studying the nation-state altogether and embraced globalism instead. When serious historians abandon the study of the nation, nationalism doesn't die. Instead, it eats liberalism. But liberalism is still in there, and *The Case for the Nation* is an attempt to pull it out. A manifesto for a better world, and a call for a new engagement with national narratives, *The Case for the Nation* reclaims the future by acknowledging the past.

these truths jill lepure: The Story of America Jill Lepore, 2012 Harvard historian and New Yorker staff writer Jill Lepore investigates American origin stories -- from John Smith's account of the founding of Jamestown in 1607 to Barack Obama's 2009 inaugural address -- to show how American democracy is bound up with the history of print.

these truths jill lepure: The Secret History of Wonder Woman Jill Lepore, 2014-12-02 A riveting work of historical detection, revealing that the origins of one of the world's most iconic Superheroes hides within it a fascinating family story — and a crucial history of twentieth-century feminism. Wonder Woman, created in 1941, is the most popular female superhero of all time. Aside from Superman and Batman, no superhero has lasted as long or commanded so vast and wildly passionate a following. Like every other superhero, Wonder Woman has a secret identity. Unlike every other superhero, she also has a secret history. Harvard historian and New Yorker staff writer Jill Lepore has uncovered an astonishing trove of documents, including the never-before-seen private papers of William Moulton Marston, Wonder Woman's creator. Beginning in his undergraduate years at Harvard, Marston was influenced by early suffragists and feminists, starting with Emmeline Pankhurst, who was banned from speaking on campus in 1911, when Marston was a freshman. In the 1920s, Marston and his wife, Sadie Elizabeth Holloway, brought into their home Olive Byrne, the niece of Margaret Sanger, one of the most influential feminists of the twentieth century. The Marston family story is a tale of drama, intrigue, and irony. In the 1930s, Marston and Byrne wrote a regular column for *Family Circle* celebrating conventional family life, even as they themselves pursued lives of extraordinary nonconformity. Marston, internationally known as an expert on truth — he invented the lie detector test — lived a life of secrets, only to spill them on the pages of Wonder Woman. *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* is a tour de force of intellectual and cultural history. Wonder Woman, Lepore argues, is the missing link in the history of the struggle for women's rights — a chain of events that begins with the women's suffrage campaigns of the early 1900s and ends with the troubled place of feminism a century later.

these truths jill lepure: The Name of War Jill Lepore, 2009-09-23 BANCROFF PRIZE WINNER

- King Philip's War, the excruciating racial war—colonists against Indigenous peoples—that erupted in New England in 1675, was, in proportion to population, the bloodiest in American history. Some even argued that the massacres and outrages on both sides were too horrific to deserve the name of a war. The war's brutality compelled the colonists to defend themselves against accusations that

they had become savages. But Jill Lepore makes clear that it was after the war—and because of it—that the boundaries between cultures, hitherto blurred, turned into rigid ones. King Philip's War became one of the most written-about wars in our history, and Lepore argues that the words strengthened and hardened feelings that, in turn, strengthened and hardened the enmity between Indigenous peoples and Anglos. Telling the story of what may have been the bitterest of American conflicts, and its reverberations over the centuries, Lepore has enabled us to see how the ways in which we remember past events are as important in their effect on our history as were the events themselves.

these truths jill lepore: How Rights Went Wrong Jamal Greene, 2021 An eminent constitutional scholar reveals how our approach to rights is dividing America, and shows how we can build a better system of justice.

these truths jill lepore: The Whites of Their Eyes Jill Lepore, 2011-08-08 From acclaimed bestselling historian Jill Lepore, the story of the American historical mythology embraced by the far right Americans have always put the past to political ends. The Union laid claim to the Revolution—so did the Confederacy. Civil rights leaders said they were the true sons of liberty—so did Southern segregationists. This book tells the story of the centuries-long struggle over the meaning of the nation's founding, including the battle waged by the Tea Party, Glenn Beck, Sarah Palin, and evangelical Christians to take back America. Jill Lepore, Harvard historian and New Yorker staff writer, offers a careful and concerned look at American history according to the far right, from the rant heard round the world, which launched the Tea Party, to the Texas School Board's adoption of a social-studies curriculum that teaches that the United States was established as a Christian nation. Along the way, she provides rare insight into the eighteenth-century struggle for independence a history of the Revolution, from the archives. Lepore traces the roots of the far right's reactionary history to the bicentennial in the 1970s, when no one could agree on what story a divided nation should tell about its unruly beginnings. Behind the Tea Party's Revolution, she argues, lies a nostalgic and even heartbreaking yearning for an imagined past—a time less troubled by ambiguity, strife, and uncertainty—a yearning for an America that never was. The Whites of Their Eyes reveals that the far right has embraced a narrative about America's founding that is not only a fable but is also, finally, a variety of fundamentalism—anti-intellectual, antihistorical, and dangerously antipluralist. In a new afterword, Lepore addresses both the recent shift in Tea Party rhetoric from the Revolution to the Constitution and the diminished role of scholars as political commentators over the last half century of public debate.

these truths jill lepore: Fault Lines: A History of the United States Since 1974 Kevin M. Kruse, Julian E. Zelizer, 2019-01-08 A gripping and troubling account of the origins of our turbulent times.” —Jill Lepore, author of These Truths: A History of the United States When—and how—did America become so polarized? In this masterful history, leading historians Kevin M. Kruse and Julian E. Zelizer uncover the origins of our current moment. It all starts in 1974 with the Watergate crisis, the OPEC oil embargo, desegregation busing riots in Boston, and the wind-down of the Vietnam War. What follows is the story of our own lifetimes. It is the story of ever-widening historical fault lines over economic inequality, race, gender, and sexual norms firing up a polarized political landscape. It is also the story of profound transformations of the media and our political system fueling the fire. Kruse and Zelizer's Fault Lines is a master class in national divisions nearly five decades in the making.

these truths jill lepore: Why Learn History (When It's Already on Your Phone) Sam Wineburg, 2018-09-17 A look at how to teach history in the age of easily accessible—but not always reliable—information. Let's start with two truths about our era that are so inescapable as to have become clichés: We are surrounded by more readily available information than ever before. And a huge percent of it is inaccurate. Some of the bad info is well-meaning but ignorant. Some of it is deliberately deceptive. All of it is pernicious. With the Internet at our fingertips, what's a teacher of history to do? In Why Learn History (When It's Already on Your Phone), professor Sam Wineburg has the answers, beginning with this: We can't stick to the same old

read-the-chapter-answer-the-question snoozefest. If we want to educate citizens who can separate fact from fake, we have to equip them with new tools. Historical thinking, Wineburg shows, has nothing to do with the ability to memorize facts. Instead, it's an orientation to the world that cultivates reasoned skepticism and counters our tendency to confirm our biases. Wineburg lays out a mine-filled landscape, but one that with care, attention, and awareness, we can learn to navigate. The future of the past may rest on our screens. But its fate rests in our hands. Praise for *Why Learn History (When It's Already on Your Phone)* "If every K-12 teacher of history and social studies read just three chapters of this book—"Crazy for History," "Changing History . . . One Classroom at a Time," and "Why Google Can't Save Us"—the ensuing transformation of our populace would save our democracy." —James W. Lowen, author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me* and *Teaching What Really Happened* "A sobering and urgent report from the leading expert on how American history is taught in the nation's schools. . . . A bracing, edifying, and vital book." —Jill Lepore, *New Yorker* staff writer and author of *These Truths* "Wineburg is a true innovator who has thought more deeply about the relevance of history to the Internet—and vice versa—than any other scholar I know. Anyone interested in the uses and abuses of history today has a duty to read this book." —Niall Ferguson, senior fellow, Hoover Institution, and author of *The Ascent of Money* and *Civilization*

these truths jill lepore: *Underland* Robert Macfarlane, 2019-05-02 The unmissable new book from the bestselling, prize-winning author of *Landmarks*, *The Old Ways* and *The Lost Words* Discover the hidden worlds beneath our feet... In *Underland*, Robert Macfarlane takes a dazzling journey into the concealed geographies of the ground beneath our feet - the hidden regions beneath the visible surfaces of the world. From the vast below-ground mycelial networks by which trees communicate, to the ice-blue depths of glacial moulins, and from North Yorkshire to the Lofoten Islands, he traces an uncharted, deep-time voyage. *Underland* a thrilling new chapter in Macfarlane's long-term exploration of the relations of landscape and the human heart. 'He is the great nature writer, and nature poet, of this generation' *Wall Street Journal* 'Packed with stories based in geography, history, myth, gossip, legend, religion, geology and the natural world. Macfarlane's writing moves and enthralls' *The Times* on *The Old Ways* 'Irradiated by a profound sense of wonder... Few books give such a sense of enchantment; it is a book to give to many, and to return to repeatedly' *Independent* on *Landmarks*

these truths jill lepore: *The Penguin History of the United States of America* Hugh Brogan, 2001-03-29 This new edition of Brogan's superb one-volume history - from early British colonisation to the Reagan years - captures an array of dynamic personalities and events. In a broad sweep of America's triumphant progress. Brogan explores the period leading to Independence from both the American and the British points of view, touching on permanent features of 'the American character' - both the good and the bad. He provides a masterly synthesis of all the latest research illustrating America's rapid growth from humble beginnings to global dominance.

these truths jill lepore: *France in the World* Patrick Boucheron, Stéphane Gerson, 2021-08-19 A fresh, provocative history that renews our understanding of France in the world through short, incisive essays ranging from prehistoric frescoes to Coco Chanel to the terrorist attacks of 2015. Bringing together an impressive group of established and up-and-coming historians, this bestselling history conceives of France not as a fixed, rooted entity, but instead as a place and an idea in flux, moving beyond all borders and frontiers, shaped by exchanges and mixtures. Presented in chronological order from 34,000 BC to 2015, each chapter covers a significant year from its own particular angle - the marriage of a Viking leader to a Carolingian princess proposed by Charles the Fat in 882, the Persian embassy's reception at the court of Louis XIV in 1715, the Chilean coup d'état against President Salvador Allende in 1973 that mobilised a generation of French left-wing activists. *France in the World* combines the intellectual rigour of an academic work with the liveliness and readability of popular history. With a brand-new preface aimed at an international audience, this English-language edition will inspire Francophiles and scholars alike.

these truths jill lepore: *Book of Ages* Jill Lepore, 2014-07-01 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR NPR • Time Magazine • The Washington Post

• Entertainment Weekly • The Boston Globe A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK From one of our most accomplished and widely admired historians—a revelatory portrait of Benjamin Franklin's youngest sister, Jane, whose obscurity and poverty were matched only by her brother's fame and wealth but who, like him, was a passionate reader, a gifted writer, and an astonishingly shrewd political commentator. Making use of an astonishing cache of little-studied material, including documents, objects, and portraits only just discovered, Jill Lepore brings Jane Franklin to life in a way that illuminates not only this one extraordinary woman but an entire world.

these truths jill lepore: New York Burning Jill Lepore, 2007-12-18 Pulitzer Prize Finalist and Anisfield-Wolf Award Winner In *New York Burning*, Bancroft Prize-winning historian Jill Lepore recounts these dramatic events of 1741, when ten fires blazed across Manhattan and panicked whites suspecting it to be the work a slave uprising went on a rampage. In the end, thirteen black men were burned at the stake, seventeen were hanged and more than one hundred black men and women were thrown into a dungeon beneath City Hall. Even back in the seventeenth century, the city was a rich mosaic of cultures, communities and colors, with slaves making up a full one-fifth of the population. Exploring the political and social climate of the times, Lepore dramatically shows how, in a city rife with state intrigue and terror, the threat of black rebellion united the white political pluralities in a frenzy of racial fear and violence.

these truths jill lepore: *Who's Black and Why?* Henry Louis Gates Jr., Andrew S. Curran, 2022-03-22 2023 PROSE Award in European History "An invaluable historical example of the creation of a scientific conception of race that is unlikely to disappear anytime soon." —Washington Post "Reveals how prestigious natural scientists once sought physical explanations, in vain, for a social identity that continues to carry enormous significance to this day." —Nell Irvin Painter, author of *The History of White People* "A fascinating, if disturbing, window onto the origins of racism." —Publishers Weekly "To read [these essays] is to witness European intellectuals, in the age of the Atlantic slave trade, struggling, one after another, to justify atrocity." —Jill Lepore, author of *These Truths: A History of the United States* In 1739 Bordeaux's Royal Academy of Sciences announced a contest for the best essay on the sources of "blackness." What is the physical cause of blackness and African hair, and what is the cause of Black degeneration, the contest announcement asked. Sixteen essays, written in French and Latin, were ultimately dispatched from all over Europe. Documented on each page are European ideas about who is Black and why. Looming behind these essays is the fact that some four million Africans had been kidnapped and shipped across the Atlantic by the time the contest was announced. The essays themselves represent a broad range of opinions, which nonetheless circulate around a common theme: the search for a scientific understanding of the new concept of race. More important, they provide an indispensable record of the Enlightenment-era thinking that normalized the sale and enslavement of Black human beings. These never previously published documents survived the centuries tucked away in Bordeaux's municipal library. Translated into English and accompanied by a detailed introduction and headnotes written by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Andrew Curran, each essay included in this volume lays bare the origins of anti-Black racism and colorism in the West.

these truths jill lepore: *What Were We Thinking* Carlos Lozada, 2020-10-06 The Washington Post's Pulitzer Prize-winning book critic uses the books of the Trump era to argue that our response to this presidency reflects the same failures of imagination that made it possible. As a book critic for The Washington Post, Carlos Lozada has read some 150 volumes claiming to diagnose why Trump was elected and what his presidency reveals about our nation. Many of these, he's found, are more defensive than incisive, more righteous than right. In *What Were We Thinking*, Lozada uses these books to tell the story of how we understand ourselves in the Trump era, using as his main characters the political ideas and debates at play in America today. He dissects works on the white working class like *Hillbilly Elegy*; manifestos from the anti-Trump resistance like *On Tyranny* and *No Is Not Enough*; books on race, gender, and identity like *How to Be an Antiracist* and *Good and Mad*; polemics on the future of the conservative movement like *The Corrosion of Conservatism*; and of course plenty of books about Trump himself. Lozada's argument is provocative: that many of these

books—whether written by liberals or conservatives, activists or academics, Trump’s true believers or his harshest critics—are vulnerable to the same blind spots, resentments, and failures that gave us his presidency. But Lozada also highlights the books that succeed in illuminating how America is changing in the 21st century. *What Were We Thinking* is an intellectual history of the Trump era in real time, helping us transcend the battles of the moment and see ourselves for who we really are.

these truths jill lepore: *Encounters in the New World* Associate Professor of History and American Studies Jill Lepore, Jill Lepore, 2002-01-01 Jill Lepore, winner of the distinguished Bancroft Prize for history, brings to life in exciting, first-person detail some of the earliest events in American history. Pages From History.

these truths jill lepore: *There Will Be No Miracles Here* Casey Gerald, 2019-01-10 Casey Gerald's story begins at the end of the world: on New Year's Eve 1999, Casey gathers with the congregation of his grandfather's black evangelical church to witness the rapture. The journey that follows is a beautiful and moving story of a young man learning to question the dreams of success and prosperity that are the foundation of modern America. Growing up gay in an ordinary black neighbourhood in Dallas, his parents struggling with mental health problems and addiction, Casey finds himself on a remarkable path to a prestigious Ivy League college, to the inner sanctums of power on Wall Street and in Washington DC. But even as he attains everything the American Dream promised him, Casey comes to see that salvation stories like his own are part of the plan to keep others from rising. Intense, incantatory, shot through with sly humour and quiet fury, *There Will Be No Miracles Here* is an extraordinary memoir that forces us to judge our society not on those who rise highest, but on those left behind along the way.

these truths jill lepore: *Alain Elkann Interviews* , 2017-09-15 Alain Elkann has mastered the art of the interview. With a background in novels and journalism, and having published over twenty books translated across ten languages, he infuses his interviews with innovation, allowing them to flow freely and organically. *Alain Elkann Interviews* will provide an unprecedented window into the minds of some of the most well-known and -respected figures of the last twenty-five years.

these truths jill lepore: *The Internet of Us: Knowing More and Understanding Less in the Age of Big Data* Michael P. Lynch, 2016-03-21 An intelligent book that struggles honestly with important questions: Is the net turning us into passive knowers? Is it degrading our ability to reason? What can we do about this? —David Weinberger, *Los Angeles Review of Books* We used to say seeing is believing; now, googling is believing. With 24/7 access to nearly all of the world’s information at our fingertips, we no longer trek to the library or the encyclopedia shelf in search of answers. We just open our browsers, type in a few keywords and wait for the information to come to us. Now firmly established as a pioneering work of modern philosophy, *The Internet of Us* has helped revolutionize our understanding of what it means to be human in the digital age. Indeed, demonstrating that knowledge based on reason plays an essential role in society and that there is more to “knowing” than just acquiring information, leading philosopher Michael P. Lynch shows how our digital way of life makes us value some ways of processing information over others, and thus risks distorting the greatest traits of mankind. Charting a path from Plato’s cave to Google Glass, the result is a necessary guide on how to navigate the philosophical quagmire that is the Internet of Things.

these truths jill lepore: *What Hath God Wrought* Daniel Walker Howe, 2007-10-29 The *Oxford History of the United States* is by far the most respected multi-volume history of our nation. In this Pulitzer prize-winning, critically acclaimed addition to the series, historian Daniel Walker Howe illuminates the period from the battle of New Orleans to the end of the Mexican-American War, an era when the United States expanded to the Pacific and won control over the richest part of the North American continent. A panoramic narrative, *What Hath God Wrought* portrays revolutionary improvements in transportation and communications that accelerated the extension of the American empire. Railroads, canals, newspapers, and the telegraph dramatically lowered travel times and spurred the spread of information. These innovations prompted the emergence of mass political parties and stimulated America's economic development from an overwhelmingly rural country to a diversified economy in which commerce and industry took their place alongside

agriculture. In his story, the author weaves together political and military events with social, economic, and cultural history. Howe examines the rise of Andrew Jackson and his Democratic party, but contends that John Quincy Adams and other Whigs--advocates of public education and economic integration, defenders of the rights of Indians, women, and African-Americans--were the true prophets of America's future. In addition, Howe reveals the power of religion to shape many aspects of American life during this period, including slavery and antislavery, women's rights and other reform movements, politics, education, and literature. Howe's story of American expansion culminates in the bitterly controversial but brilliantly executed war waged against Mexico to gain California and Texas for the United States. Winner of the New-York Historical Society American History Book Prize Finalist, 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction The Oxford History of the United States The Oxford History of the United States is the most respected multi-volume history of our nation. The series includes three Pulitzer Prize winners, a New York Times bestseller, and winners of the Bancroft and Parkman Prizes. The Atlantic Monthly has praised it as the most distinguished series in American historical scholarship, a series that synthesizes a generation's worth of historical inquiry and knowledge into one literally state-of-the-art book. Conceived under the general editorship of C. Vann Woodward and Richard Hofstadter, and now under the editorship of David M. Kennedy, this renowned series blends social, political, economic, cultural, diplomatic, and military history into coherent and vividly written narrative.

these truths jill lepure: The Mansion of Happiness Jill Lepore, 2013-03-26 Renowned Harvard scholar and New Yorker staff writer Jill Lepore has written a strikingly original, ingeniously conceived, and beautifully crafted history of American ideas about life and death from before the cradle to beyond the grave. How does life begin? What does it mean? What happens when we die? "All anyone can do is ask," Lepore writes. "That's why any history of ideas about life and death has to be, like this book, a history of curiosity." Lepore starts that history with the story of a seventeenth-century Englishman who had the idea that all life begins with an egg, and ends it with an American who, in the 1970s, began freezing the dead. In between, life got longer, the stages of life multiplied, and matters of life and death moved from the library to the laboratory, from the humanities to the sciences. Lately, debates about life and death have determined the course of American politics. Each of these debates has a history. Investigating the surprising origins of the stuff of everyday life—from board games to breast pumps—Lepore argues that the age of discovery, Darwin, and the Space Age turned ideas about life on earth topsy-turvy. "New worlds were found," she writes, and "old paradises were lost." As much a meditation on the present as an excavation of the past, *The Mansion of Happiness* is delightful, learned, and altogether beguiling.

these truths jill lepure: Land of Hope Wilfred M. McClay, 2020-09-22 For too long we've lacked a compact, inexpensive, authoritative, and compulsively readable book that offers American readers a clear, informative, and inspiring narrative account of their country. Such a fresh retelling of the American story is especially needed today, to shape and deepen young Americans' sense of the land they inhabit, help them to understand its roots and share in its memories, all the while equipping them for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in American society The existing texts simply fail to tell that story with energy and conviction. Too often they reflect a fragmented outlook that fails to convey to American readers the grand trajectory of their own history. This state of affairs cannot continue for long without producing serious consequences. A great nation needs and deserves a great and coherent narrative, as an expression of its own self-understanding and its aspirations; and it needs to be able to convey that narrative to its young effectively. Of course, it goes without saying that such a narrative cannot be a fairy tale of the past. It will not be convincing if it is not truthful. But as *Land of Hope* brilliantly shows, there is no contradiction between a truthful account of the American past and an inspiring one. Readers of *Land of Hope* will find both in its pages.

these truths jill lepure: Ideas Have Consequences Richard M. Weaver, 2013-11-04 A foundational text of the modern conservative movement, this 1948 philosophical treatise argues the decline of Western civilization and offers a remedy. Originally published in 1948, at the height of

post-World War II optimism and confidence in collective security, *Ideas Have Consequences* uses “words hard as cannonballs” to present an unsparing diagnosis of the ills of the modern age. Widely read and debated at the time of its first publication, the book is now seen as one of the foundational texts of the modern conservative movement. In its pages, Richard M. Weaver argues that the decline of Western civilization resulted from the rising acceptance of relativism over absolute reality. In spite of increased knowledge, this retreat from the realist intellectual tradition has weakened the Western capacity to reason, with catastrophic consequences for social order and individual rights. But Weaver also offers a realistic remedy. These difficulties are the product not of necessity, but of intelligent choice. And, today, as decades ago, the remedy lies in the renewed acceptance of absolute reality and the recognition that ideas—like actions—have consequences. This expanded edition of the classic work contains a foreword by New Criterion editor Roger Kimball that offers insight into the rich intellectual and historical contexts of Weaver and his work and an afterword by Ted J. Smith III that relates the remarkable story of the book’s writing and publication. Praise for *Ideas Have Consequences* “A profound diagnosis of the sickness of our culture.” —Reinhold Niebuhr “Brilliantly written, daring, and radical. . . . It will shock, and philosophical shock is the beginning of wisdom.” —Paul Tillich “This deeply prophetic book not only launched the renaissance of philosophical conservatism in this country, but in the process gave us an armory of insights into the diseases besetting the national community that is as timely today as when it first appeared. [This] is one of the few authentic classics in the American political tradition.” —Robert Nisbet

these truths jill lepore: *City on a Hill* Abram C. Van Engen, 2020-02-25 A fresh, original history of America’s national narratives, told through the loss, recovery, and rise of one influential Puritan sermon from 1630 to the present day In this illuminating book, Abram Van Engen shows how the phrase “City on a Hill,” from a 1630 sermon by Massachusetts Bay governor John Winthrop, shaped the story of American exceptionalism in the twentieth century. By tracing the history of Winthrop’s speech, its changing status throughout time, and its use in modern politics, Van Engen asks us to reevaluate our national narratives. He tells the story of curators, librarians, collectors, archivists, antiquarians, and often anonymous figures who emphasized the role of the Pilgrims and Puritans in American history, paving the way for the saving and sanctifying of a single sermon. This sermon’s rags-to-riches rise reveals the way national stories take shape and shows us how those tales continue to influence competing visions of the country—the many different meanings of America that emerge from its literary past.

these truths jill lepore: *A Is for American* Jill Lepore, 2003-02-04 What ties Americans to one another? What unifies a nation of citizens with different racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds? These were the dilemmas faced by Americans in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as they sought ways to bind the newly United States together. In *A is for American*, award-winning historian Jill Lepore portrays seven men who turned to language to help shape a new nation’s character and boundaries. From Noah Webster’s attempts to standardize American spelling, to Alexander Graham Bell’s use of “Visible Speech” to help teach the deaf to talk, to Sequoyah’s development of a Cherokee syllabary as a means of preserving his people’s independence, these stories form a compelling portrait of a developing nation’s struggles. Lepore brilliantly explores the personalities, work, and influence of these figures, seven men driven by radically different aims and temperaments. Through these superbly told stories, she chronicles the challenges faced by a young country trying to unify its diverse people.

these truths jill lepore: *Stolen* Richard Bell, 2019-10-15 A gripping and true story about five boys who were kidnapped in the North and smuggled into slavery in the Deep South—and their daring attempt to escape and bring their captors to justice, reminiscent of *Twelve Years a Slave* and *Never Caught*. Philadelphia, 1825: five young, free black boys fall into the clutches of the most fearsome gang of kidnappers and slavers in the United States. Lured onto a small ship with the promise of food and pay, they are instead met with blindfolds, ropes, and knives. Over four long months, their kidnappers drive them overland into the Cotton Kingdom to be sold as slaves. Determined to resist, the boys form a tight brotherhood as they struggle to free themselves and find

their way home. Their ordeal—an odyssey that takes them from the Philadelphia waterfront to the marshes of Mississippi and then onward still—shines a glaring spotlight on the Reverse Underground Railroad, a black market network of human traffickers and slave traders who stole away thousands of legally free African Americans from their families in order to fuel slavery's rapid expansion in the decades before the Civil War. Impeccably researched and breathlessly paced, *Stolen* tells the incredible story of five boys whose courage forever changed the fight against slavery in America.

these truths jill lepure: *The Nature of Historical Inquiry* Leonard Mendes Marsak, 1977

these truths jill lepure: *The Age of Walls* Tim Marshall, 2019-10-15 Tim Marshall, the New York Times bestselling author of *Prisoners of Geography*, offers “a readable primer to many of the biggest problems facing the world” (Daily Express, UK) by examining the borders, walls, and boundaries that divide countries and their populations. The globe has always been a world of walls, from the Great Wall of China to Hadrian's Wall to the Berlin Wall. But a new age of isolationism and economic nationalism is upon us, visible in Trump's obsession with building a wall on the Mexico border, in Britain's Brexit vote, and in many other places as well. China has the great Firewall, holding back Western culture. Europe's countries are walling themselves against immigrants, terrorism, and currency issues. South Africa has heavily gated communities, and massive walls or fences separate people in the Middle East, Korea, Sudan, India, and other places around the world. In fact, more than a third of the world's nation-states have barriers along their borders. Understanding what is behind these divisions is essential to understanding much of what's going on in the world today. Written in Tim Marshall's brisk, inimitable style, *The Age of Walls* is divided by geographic region. He provides an engaging context that is often missing from political discussion and draws on his real life experiences as a reporter from hotspots around the globe. He examines how walls, borders, and barriers have been shaping our political landscape for hundreds of years, and especially since 2001, and how they figure in the diplomatic relations and geo-political events of today. “Marshall is a skilled explainer of the world as it is, and geography buffs will be pleased by his latest” (Kirkus Reviews). “Accomplished, well researched, and pacey...*The Age of Walls* is for anyone who wants to look beyond the headlines and explore the context of some of the biggest challenges facing the world today, it is a fascinating and fast read” (City AM, UK).

these truths jill lepure: *American Radicals* Holly Jackson, 2019-10-08 A dynamic, timely history of nineteenth-century activists—free-lovers and socialists, abolitionists and vigilantes—and the social revolution they sparked in the turbulent Civil War era “In the tradition of Howard Zinn's people's histories, *American Radicals* reveals a forgotten yet inspiring past.”—Megan Marshall, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life* and *Elizabeth Bishop: A Miracle for Breakfast* **NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST HISTORY BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY SMITHSONIAN** On July 4, 1826, as Americans lit firecrackers to celebrate the country's fiftieth birthday, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were on their deathbeds. They would leave behind a groundbreaking political system and a growing economy—as well as the glaring inequalities that had undermined the American experiment from its beginning. The young nation had outlived the men who made it, but could it survive intensifying divisions over the very meaning of the land of the free? A new network of dissent—connecting firebrands and agitators on pastoral communes, in urban mobs, and in genteel parlors across the nation—vowed to finish the revolution they claimed the founding fathers had only begun. They were men and women, black and white, fiercely devoted to causes that pitted them against mainstream America even while they fought to preserve the nation's founding ideals: the brilliant heiress Frances Wright, whose shocking critiques of religion and the institution of marriage led to calls for her arrest; the radical Bostonian William Lloyd Garrison, whose commitment to nonviolence would be tested as the conflict over slavery pushed the nation to its breaking point; the Philadelphia businessman James Forten, who presided over the first mass political protest of free African Americans; Marx Lazarus, a vegan from Alabama whose calls for sexual liberation masked a dark secret; black nationalist Martin Delany, the would-be founding father of a West African colony who secretly supported John Brown's treasonous raid on Harpers

Ferry—only to ally himself with Southern Confederates after the Civil War. Though largely forgotten today, these figures were enormously influential in the pivotal period flanking the war, their lives and work entwined with reformers like Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Henry David Thoreau, as well as iconic leaders like Abraham Lincoln. Jackson writes them back into the story of the nation's most formative and perilous era in all their heroism, outlandishness, and tragic shortcomings. The result is a surprising, panoramic work of narrative history, one that offers important lessons for our own time.

these truths jill lepure: Buried in the Bitter Waters Elliot Jaspin, 2008-05-06 A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist exposes the secret history of racial cleansing in America

these truths jill lepure: The Far Land Brandon Presser, 2022-03-08 For fans of *The Wager* and *Mutiny on the Bounty* comes a thrilling true tale of power, obsession, and betrayal at the edge of the world. In 1808, an American merchant ship happened upon an uncharted island in the South Pacific and unwittingly solved the biggest nautical mystery of the era: the whereabouts of a band of fugitives who, after seizing their vessel, had disappeared into the night with their Tahitian companions. Pitcairn Island was the perfect hideaway from British authorities, but after nearly two decades of isolation its secret society had devolved into a tribalistic hellscape; a real-life Lord of the Flies, rife with depravity and deception. Seven generations later, the island's diabolical past still looms over its 48 residents; descendants of the original mutineers, marooned like modern castaways. Only a rusty cargo ship connects Pitcairn with the rest of the world, just four times a year. In 2018, Brandon Presser rode the freighter to live among its present-day families; two clans bound by circumstance and secrets. While on the island, he pieced together Pitcairn's full story: an operatic saga that holds all who have visited in its mortal clutch—even the author. Told through vivid historical and personal narrative, *The Far Land* goes beyond the infamous *Mutiny on the Bounty*, offering an unprecedented glimpse at life on the fringes of civilization, and how, perhaps, it's not so different from our own.

these truths jill lepure: American Colonies Alan Taylor, 2002-07-30 A multicultural, multinational history of colonial America from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Internal Enemy* and *American Revolutions* In the first volume in the Penguin History of the United States, edited by Eric Foner, Alan Taylor challenges the traditional story of colonial history by examining the many cultures that helped make America, from the native inhabitants from millennia past, through the decades of Western colonization and conquest, and across the entire continent, all the way to the Pacific coast. Transcending the usual Anglocentric version of our colonial past, he recovers the importance of Native American tribes, African slaves, and the rival empires of France, Spain, the Netherlands, and even Russia in the colonization of North America. Moving beyond the Atlantic seaboard to examine the entire continent, *American Colonies* reveals a pivotal period in the global interaction of peoples, cultures, plants, animals, and microbes. In a vivid narrative, Taylor draws upon cutting-edge scholarship to create a timely picture of the colonial world characterized by an interplay of freedom and slavery, opportunity and loss. Formidable . . . provokes us to contemplate the ways in which residents of North America have dealt with diversity. -The New York Times Book Review

these truths jill lepure: The Lumbee Indians Malinda Maynor Lowery, 2018-08-01 Jamestown, the Lost Colony of Roanoke, and Plymouth Rock are central to America's mythic origin stories. Then, we are told, the main characters--the friendly Native Americans who met the settlers--disappeared. But the history of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina demands that we tell a different story. As the largest tribe east of the Mississippi and one of the largest in the country, the Lumbees have survived in their original homelands, maintaining a distinct identity as Indians in a biracial South. In this passionately written, sweeping work of history, Malinda Maynor Lowery narrates the Lumbees' extraordinary story as never before. The Lumbees' journey as a people sheds new light on America's defining moments, from the first encounters with Europeans to the present day. How and why did the Lumbees both fight to establish the United States and resist the encroachments of its government? How have they not just survived, but thrived, through Civil War,

Jim Crow, the civil rights movement, and the war on drugs, to ultimately establish their own constitutional government in the twenty-first century? Their fight for full federal acknowledgment continues to this day, while the Lumbee people's struggle for justice and self-determination continues to transform our view of the American experience. Readers of this book will never see Native American history the same way.

these truths jill lepure: *1774* Mary Beth Norton, 2020-02-11 From one of our most acclaimed and original colonial historians, a groundbreaking book tracing the critical long year of 1774 and the revolutionary change that took place from the Boston Tea Party and the First Continental Congress to the Battles of Lexington and Concord. A WALL STREET JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR In this masterly work of history, the culmination of more than four decades of research and thought, Mary Beth Norton looks at the sixteen months leading up to the clashes at Lexington and Concord in mid-April 1775. This was the critical, and often overlooked, period when colonists traditionally loyal to King George III began their discordant “discussions” that led them to their acceptance of the inevitability of war against the British Empire. Drawing extensively on pamphlets, newspapers, and personal correspondence, Norton reconstructs colonial political discourse as it took place throughout 1774. Late in the year, conservatives mounted a vigorous campaign criticizing the First Continental Congress. But by then it was too late. In early 1775, colonial governors informed officials in London that they were unable to thwart the increasing power of local committees and their allied provincial congresses. Although the Declaration of Independence would not be formally adopted until July 1776, Americans had in effect “declared independence” even before the outbreak of war in April 1775 by obeying the decrees of the provincial governments they had elected rather than colonial officials appointed by the king. Norton captures the tension and drama of this pivotal year and foundational moment in American history and brings it to life as no other historian has done before.

these truths jill lepure: *Prepared* Diane Tavenner, 2019-09-17 A blueprint for how parents can stop worrying about their children’s future and start helping them prepare for it, from the cofounder and CEO of one of America’s most innovative public-school networks “A treasure trove of deeply practical wisdom that accords with everything I know about how children thrive.”—Angela Duckworth, New York Times bestselling author of *Grit* In 2003, Diane Tavenner cofounded the first school in what would become Summit Public Schools, which has since won national recognition for its exceptional outcomes: 99 percent of students are accepted to a four-year college, and its students graduate college at twice the national average. But in a radical departure from the environments created by the college admissions arms race, Summit students aren’t focused on competing with their classmates for rankings or test scores. Instead, students spend their days solving real-world problems and developing the skills of self-direction, collaboration, and reflection, all of which prepare them to succeed in college, thrive in today’s workplace, and lead a secure and fulfilled life. Through personal stories and hard-earned lessons from Summit’s exceptional team of educators and diverse students, Tavenner shares the learning philosophies underlying the Summit model and offers a blueprint for any parent who wants to stop worrying about their children’s future—and start helping them prepare for it. At a time when many students are struggling to regain educational and developmental ground lost to the disruptions of the pandemic, *Prepared* is more urgent and necessary than ever.

these truths jill lepure: *Imminent Dangers to the Free Institutions of the United States* Samuel Finley Breese Morse, 1854

these truths jill lepure: *Liberty and Coercion* Gary Gerstle, 2017-10-24 How the conflict between federal and state power has shaped American history American governance is burdened by a paradox. On the one hand, Americans don't want big government meddling in their lives; on the other hand, they have repeatedly enlisted governmental help to impose their views regarding marriage, abortion, religion, and schooling on their neighbors. These contradictory stances on the role of public power have paralyzed policymaking and generated rancorous disputes about government’s legitimate scope. How did we reach this political impasse? Historian Gary Gerstle,

looking at two hundred years of U.S. history, argues that the roots of the current crisis lie in two contrasting theories of power that the Framers inscribed in the Constitution. One theory shaped the federal government, setting limits on its power in order to protect personal liberty. Another theory molded the states, authorizing them to go to extraordinary lengths, even to the point of violating individual rights, to advance the good and welfare of the commonwealth. The Framers believed these theories could coexist comfortably, but conflict between the two has largely defined American history. Gerstle shows how national political leaders improvised brilliantly to stretch the power of the federal government beyond where it was meant to go—but at the cost of giving private interests and state governments too much sway over public policy. The states could be innovative, too. More impressive was their staying power. Only in the 1960s did the federal government, impelled by the Cold War and civil rights movement, definitively assert its primacy. But as the power of the central state expanded, its constitutional authority did not keep pace. Conservatives rebelled, making the battle over government's proper dominion the defining issue of our time. From the Revolution to the Tea Party, and the Bill of Rights to the national security state, *Liberty and Coercion* is a revelatory account of the making and unmaking of government in America.

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