

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY READING LIST

- Albion's Seed* (David Hackett Fischer) Transfer of institutions from England to colonial America...very interesting
- The Puritan Dilemma* (Edmund S. Morgan) Salem Witchcraft episode
- Woman's Life in Colonial Days* (Carl Holliday) Based on letters, documents, and drawings of the period
- The Devil in Massachusetts* (Marion Starkey) Again, Salem Witchcraft trial
- Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft* (Boyer and Nissenbaum) Also edited *Salem Village Witchcraft* (the trial transcripts for this famous case)
- Jonathan Edwards* (Perry Miller) Famous colonial theologian...
- The American Way of War: A History of the United States Military Strategy and Policy* (Russell F. Weigley)
- The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783* (Alfred Thayer Mahan) Classic-role of naval warfare
- Arms and Men: A Study of American Military History* (Walter Millis)
- Autobiography and Other Writings* (Benjamin Franklin)
- Founding Brothers* (Joseph Ellis) Specific studies of Jefferson, Franklin....
- Founding Mothers* (Cokie Roberts) Women who changed America from the home
- Thomas Jefferson and His Time* (6 vols.) (Dumas Malone)
- American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson* (Joseph J. Ellis)
- John Adams* (David McCullough)
- Alexander Hamilton* (Ron Chernow)
- Democracy in America* (Alexis de Tocqueville) Early commentary on the new American nation by an astute Frenchman
- Faces of Revolution* (Bernard Bailyn) Study of the American Revolution by a classic US historian
- Paul Revere, Washington's Crossing* (David Hackett Fischer)
- Voices of 1776* (Richard Wheeler) PSR's from the revolution
- 1776* (David McCullough) Excellent new study of the era by a superb storyteller...
- Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* (Bernard Bailyn)
- On the American Revolution; Selected Speeches and Letters* (Edmund Burke)
- E Pluribus Unum: The Formation of the American Republic 1776-1790* (Forrest McDonald)
- The First Salute: A View of the American Revolution* (Barbara Tuchman)
- Common Sense* (Thomas Paine) Justification for rebellion...
- Novus Ordo Seclorum* (Forrest McDonald) The intellectual origins of the Constitution
- The Federalist Papers* (Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison and John Jay)
- Alexander Hamilton: A Biography* (Forrest McDonald)
- Undaunted Courage* (Stephen Ambrose) Lewis & Clark's adventures
- Journals of Lewis and Clark* (Lewis, Clark) Their own observations exploring the Louisiana Purchase
- Cracker Culture* (Grady McWhiney) Fascinating study of Celtic folkways in the Old South
- The Age of Jackson* (Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.) Classic study of the period

The Oregon Trail (Francis Parkman) Primary source account of the early west...considered a classic.
Walden, Civil Disobedience (Henry David Thoreau) Influenced Ghandi, King
Plantation Community (Blassingame) Standard (excellent) work on antebellum slavery
Journal of Residence on a Georgia Plantation (Fanny Kemble) Another PSR about this period...excellent!
Plantation Mistress (Catherine Clinton) Debunks the usual myths of the "plantation lifestyle"
Classic Slave Narratives (Henry Louis Gates) Four very different slave experiences
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harriet Beecher Stowe) Lincoln claimed this "started the war"
The Confederate Nation 1861-1865 (Emory M. Thomas)
Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South (Ira Berlin)
The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-bellum South (Kenneth Stampp) Primary sources....
The Confessions of Nat Turner (William Styron) Novel about 1831 slave rebellion
The Civil War (Bruce Catton)
The Civil War: A Narrative (3 vols.) (Shelby Foote) Eloquently written narrative....
"Co. Atch" (Sam R. Watkins) Journal of a Civil War soldier...
Killer Angels (Michael Shaara) Wonderful novel (well-researched) about Gettysburg...
The Private Mary Chestnut (C. Vann Woodward) Woman's view of life in the South during "the War"
Gangs of New York (Herbert Asbury) More explicit than the movie, immigration problems during the Civil War
Pioneer Women (Joanna L. Stratton) Primary accounts of the arduous trip and life in the West
My Antonia (Willa Cather) Fictional classic of a woman's struggle with the Nebraska frontier...
Crazy Horse and Custer (Stephen Ambrose) Story of parallel lives of two great warriors
In Their Own Words: Warriors & Pioneers (ed. T.J. Stiles) Primary sources...great study!
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee (Dee Brown) Classic history of the fate of the Native American
The Strange Career of Jim Crow (C. Vann Woodward) "The" study of post-reconstruction segregation
Up from Slavery (Booker T. Washington) Rise to prominence from the conditions of slavery...
The Souls of Black Folks (W.E.B. DuBois) One man's view: "what it means to be black"
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (Ernest J. Gaines) Novel of survival from slavery to the civil rights movement
The Jungle (Upton Sinclair) Famous expose of the early meatpacking industry
The Uprooted (Oscar Handlin) Early (some say the best) study of immigration
Island of Hope, Island of Tears (David M. Brownstone) Experiences of Ellis Island through immigrants' own words
The Age of Reform: From Bryan to FDR (Richard Hofstadter)
How the Other Half Lives (Jacob Riis) Compelling documentation of 1890 New York slums...excellent photographs
Shame of the Cities (Lincoln Steffens) Expose of crime and corruption in major American cities
The American Mind (Henry Steele Commager) American thought and character since the 1880's
The Metaphysical Club (Louis Menand) Four American intellectuals and their influence on American thought
Ardent Spirits (John Kobler) Prohibition....
Only Yesterday (Frederick Lewis Allen) Wonderful study of the Roaring Twenties

Since Yesterday (Frederick Lewis Allen) Companion study of the 1930's
All the King's Men (Robert Penn Warren) Novel based on Huey Long's despotic political career in Louisiana
Lindbergh (A. Scott Berg) First solo trans-atlantic flight....
Hard Times (Studs Turkel) Interviews with those who experienced the Great Depression
The Good War (Studs Turkel) Interviews with WWII veterans
Franklin and Winston (Jon Meacham) Interesting new study of their relationship during WWII
Infamy (John Toland) Pearl Harbor...
At Dawn We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor (Gordon W. Prange)
American Caesar: Douglas MacArthur, 1880-1964 (William Manchester)
The Second World War (John Keegan)
The Greatest Generation (Tom Brokaw) Individual stories of those who fought and lived through WWII
The Implosion Conspiracy (Louis Nizer) Fantastic account of the Rosenberg "spy case"
Advise and Consent (Allen Drury) Novel based on famous Communist spy case of Hiss and Chambers
Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam (Frances Fitzgerald)
Vietnam: A History (Stanley Karnow) Comprehensive....
A Rumor of War (Caputo) Vietnam from another view....
The Things they Carried (Tim O'Brien) Yet another view of Vietnam (novel)
Profiles in Courage (John F. Kennedy) Famous Americans
Thirteen Days (Robert Kennedy) Insider's view of the Cuban Missile Crisis
Death of a President: November 1963 (William Manchester) JFK's assassination...
The Right Stuff (Thomas Wolfe) Mercury program and attempts to break the sound barrier
All the President's Men (Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein) Book that broke the Watergate scandal
Future Shock, The Third Wave, War and Antiwar (Alvin and Heidi Toffler) How do we deal with a changing world?