

# American History

More Than 500 Years of Political, Military, Social, and Cultural History



## Booklist

### Twenty Best Bets for Student Researchers

"...very accessible, user-friendly, comprehensive...  
**Highly recommended.**"—CHOICE

"...[an] **outstanding database**...A user-friendly interface, solidly written articles, and a wide range of other features make this source **highly recommended**..."—BOOKLIST

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**History Research Center**, the most authoritative resource for complete history coverage, includes *American History*, *African-American History*, *American Indian History*, *Ancient & Medieval History*, and *Modern World History*. Upgrade to all five databases for the ultimate history coverage and special bundle pricing.

**FULL SCOPE OF HISTORY**

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### Highlights and Features:

- **Authoritative Source List:** Expertly researched and written content from a wealth of proprietary titles, including the latest edition of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of American History*
- **Easy Access to Relevant Content:** Key content is handpicked by our editors to inform research and provide guided entryways into the database, plus convenient links to key areas are at the top of every page

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# American History

History Reimagined

## HIGHLIGHTS AND FEATURES



### The Civil War and Reconstruction: 1860–1876

**Ultimate and Proximate Causes** May 1846–November 1860  
In 1860, the people of the United States faced the greatest internal crisis that they had since their founding. That crisis burst into a disastrous civil war in 1861 that lasted four years.

**Secession, Border States, and First Battles** December 1860–December 1861  
In the weeks between the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency in November and his inauguration on March 4, 1861, the crisis that had been impending for at least a decade culminated.

**From Slavery to Freedom: Battlefield Emancipation and Contrabands** May 1861–June 1862  
The original seven states of the Confederacy that announced their secession and the formation of a new nation did so explicitly because of the election of Lincoln as a presidential candidate.

**Blockade Ships and River Gunboats** January 1861–December 1861  
The naval and maritime side of the Civil War tends to hold a lesser place in public memory than the conflict between the armies on land. Part of the reason may lie in the fact that the battles in...

**Two Bitter Years** January 1862–December 1863  
Throughout 1862 and 1863, the Civil War increased in intensity, with numerous battles and heavy casualties that convinced both sides they were in for a long and bitter war. A number of factors...

**Emancipation and the Mind of Lincoln** July 1862–March 1865  
Although abolitionists and radical Republicans continually urged Lincoln to take...

### Videos and Slideshows

#### Manifest Destiny

**Manifest Destiny**  
David Wilentz sat at the table with several other members of Congress. The group had held regular meetings for weeks, trying to formulate a strategy that would challenge the administration of...

#### The Origins of Manifest Destiny

The phrase Manifest Destiny is used to express the belief that it was the fate of the United States to expand across the American continent. The idea of Manifest Destiny was not new to America...

#### Expansion and the Early Republic

The Treaty of Paris of 1763 ended the American Revolution. Under the terms of this agreement, Great Britain recognized her former colonies as a sovereign and independent nation. In addition, Great...

#### Territories and National Policy

In the first decade of the nineteenth century, the United States greatly extended its territorial holdings through the Louisiana Purchase. Just 16 years later, the young nation added Florida...

#### Claiming Ownership of Oregon Territory

The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1806–1806 proved that no waterway connected the east and west coasts of North America. The expedition brought back descriptions of flora, fauna, and native...

#### Texas Becomes a State

Oregon certainly played its role in the fulfillment of Manifest Destiny. It was in Texas, however, that the best and worst of Manifest Destiny exposed itself, revealing the dual nature of America...

#### The War with Mexico

The influx of American settlers into lands claimed by Mexico led to increased tensions between Mexico and the United States. Following the Texas' 1846 victory at San Jacinto, Mexico...

#### Videos and Slideshows

**Reasons for American Annexation**  
2:30

**America Expands Westward**  
18 Photos

**More Slideshows**

**More Videos**

#### Primary Source Documents

**Alaska Purchase Treaty**

**Annexation of Texas**

**"Empire of the Pacific"**

**Homestead Act**

**Indian Removal Act**

**The Law of Civilization and Decay: An Essay on History**

**"My Husband Was Seized with a Mania"**

**"Plymouth Rock" Address**

**"The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (excerpt)**

**Thoughts on Oregonism**

**View All**

#### Maps and Charts

**Exploring the West**

**Maps**

### The Race to the Moon

**Original Crew of Apollo 13**  
Left to right: Commander James A. Lovell, copilot Thomas K. Mattingly, and lunar module pilot Fred W. Young pose for a publicity shot before the Apollo 13 mission. Mattingly was scrubbed from the flight because he had been exposed to measles; he was replaced with James Swigert.  
Source: NASA, Johnson Space Center.

### Contemporary Female Leaders

**First Four Female Supreme Court Justices**  
The first four women to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States pose together in the Justices' Conference Room, prior to Justice Elena Kagan's Investiture Ceremony on October 1, 2010. From left to right: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Ret.), Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Clarence Thomas, and Justice Elena Kagan.  
Source: Collection of U.S. Supreme Court.

### Land and Sea Battles

**Battle of Shiloh**  
This painting by Thure de Thulstrup shows the Battle of Shiloh, an important Northern victory that secured western Tennessee and provided access to Mississippi in April 1862. Confederate troops launched a surprise attack on Union soldiers near Shiloh Church, forcing General William Tecumseh Sherman to withdraw his army. However, General Ulysses S. Grant and Don Carlos Buell soon arrived with reinforcements. The fighting continued for several days, until the Confederate army could no longer hold its line and General P. G. T. Beauregard ordered his troops to retreat into Mississippi. Each army suffered more than 20,000 casualties.  
Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Chronological. 1888.

**Editorially Curated Topic Centers:** Specially selected content on different eras and themes of American history—including articles, shareable slideshows, videos, and more—provide valuable study guides and entry points into the content

**Slideshow Overviews:** Original, interactive whiteboard-friendly slideshows for a visual introduction to key topics

## Plus—

- **Overview Essays:** substantial and thorough essays giving extensive background on relevant historical topics and eras
- **10,000+ Primary Sources,** many with introductions that provide context and background—perfect for strengthening critical-thinking skills
- **Controversies in History:** editorially selected pro/con articles on many high-interest controversies in U.S. history, enabling researchers to grasp the essence and importance of every conflict
- **Curriculum Tools:** writing and research tips for students and educators
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