

# bedford series in history and culture

**bedford series in history and culture** represents a significant exploration into the multifaceted impact of the Bedford lineage and its associated artifacts, traditions, and historical narratives. This topic encompasses a wide range of cultural, social, and political developments linked to the Bedford name throughout various periods. From aristocratic heritage to contributions in literature, art, and societal reforms, the Bedford series offers a comprehensive view of how this influential entity shaped historical events and cultural dynamics. By examining the intersections of heritage, patronage, and historical milestones, the Bedford series in history and culture reveals the enduring legacy of the Bedford family and its influence across different regions and eras. This article delves into the origins, historical significance, cultural representations, and lasting impact of the Bedford series, providing a detailed understanding of its place within the broader context of history and culture. The following sections outline the key areas of focus for a thorough exploration of this topic.

- Origins and Historical Background of the Bedford Series
- Political and Social Influence of the Bedford Lineage
- Cultural Contributions and Artistic Patronage
- Bedford Series in Literature and Media
- Legacy and Modern-Day Relevance

## Origins and Historical Background of the Bedford Series

The Bedford series in history and culture traces its roots to the noble Bedford family, whose lineage extends back to medieval England. This family gained prominence through titles such as the Duke of Bedford, a peerage created multiple times in British history. The origins of the Bedford title are closely linked to the Plantagenet and Tudor dynasties, with significant involvement in political and military affairs. The Bedford estates, including historic castles and manors, served as centers of power and cultural development. The series also encompasses key historical events in which members of the Bedford family played pivotal roles, including the Wars of the Roses and the English Reformation. Understanding the origins provides essential context for appreciating the broader cultural and historical significance of the Bedford name.

## Medieval Foundations and Early Influence

During the medieval period, the Bedford family established itself as a powerful aristocratic house. The first Duke of Bedford, John of Lancaster, was a son of King Henry IV and played a critical role during the Hundred Years' War. His military leadership and governance in France set precedents for the family's involvement in national affairs. This era marked the beginning of the Bedford series'

enduring influence in both politics and culture.

## **Estates and Architectural Heritage**

The Bedford estates are notable for their architectural and historical value. These properties not only served as residences but also as cultural hubs. Many of the estates feature significant artworks, gardens, and libraries that reflect the tastes and values of the Bedford lineage across centuries. The preservation of these estates contributes to the understanding of the Bedford series in history and culture.

## **Political and Social Influence of the Bedford Lineage**

The Bedford series in history and culture is deeply intertwined with the political and social developments of England and beyond. Members of the Bedford family were often involved in governance, diplomacy, and reform, shaping policy and societal norms. Their influence extended from court politics to local administration, impacting the lives of subjects and the structure of power. The Bedford family also played a role in the patronage of emerging political ideas and social movements, aligning with various causes that reflected the changing times.

## **Role in National and International Politics**

The Dukes of Bedford frequently held key positions such as regents, advisors, and military commanders. Their political activities influenced the outcomes of significant conflicts and treaties, including the management of English territories abroad. This active participation in governance underlines the Bedford series' importance in shaping historical trajectories.

## **Social Reforms and Philanthropy**

Beyond politics, the Bedford lineage engaged in social reforms through philanthropy and support for education and health initiatives. Their patronage helped establish institutions that addressed societal needs, reflecting a commitment to public welfare. These actions reinforced the Bedford series' reputation as a socially responsible and culturally invested family.

## **Cultural Contributions and Artistic Patronage**

The Bedford series in history and culture is renowned for its significant contributions to the arts. The family acted as patrons to artists, writers, and musicians, fostering creative expression and innovation. Their collections of art and literature, as well as commissioned works, have enriched cultural heritage and influenced artistic trends. The Bedford patronage extended to architecture, with distinctive styles that blended tradition and contemporary influences.

## **Art Collections and Commissions**

The Bedford family amassed extensive collections of paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts. They commissioned works from prominent artists of their times, helping to promote artistic excellence and preserve cultural artifacts. These collections often reflected the family's tastes, values, and social status, serving as cultural symbols.

## **Support for Literature and Music**

Literary patronage was another facet of the Bedford series' cultural influence. Writers and poets found support within the Bedford household, leading to the production of significant literary works. Similarly, musical patronage helped cultivate talent and musical innovation, contributing to the cultural vibrancy associated with the Bedford name.

## **Bedford Series in Literature and Media**

The Bedford series in history and culture has been a subject of interest in various forms of literature and media. Historical novels, biographies, and documentaries have explored the intricate lives and events associated with the Bedford family. These portrayals highlight the complexities of aristocratic life and the broader social and political contexts in which the Bedford lineage operated. Media representations have helped popularize the Bedford series, bringing its historical and cultural significance to wider audiences.

## **Historical Novels and Biographies**

Numerous authors have written about the Bedford series, blending historical facts with narrative storytelling. These works provide insight into personal lives, political intrigues, and cultural milieus connected to the Bedford family. Biographies of prominent Bedfords offer in-depth analysis of their impact and legacy.

## **Documentaries and Visual Media**

Documentary films and television series have also featured the Bedford series, utilizing archival materials and expert commentary to present an authoritative account of the family's history. Visual media have played a crucial role in educating the public and preserving the memory of the Bedford lineage.

## **Legacy and Modern-Day Relevance**

The Bedford series in history and culture continues to hold relevance in modern times through its lasting legacies in architecture, philanthropy, and cultural institutions. Descendants and organizations linked to the Bedford name actively maintain historic properties and promote cultural heritage. The ongoing study and preservation of Bedford-related artifacts and documents contribute to academic research and public knowledge. The Bedford series exemplifies how aristocratic history

can inform contemporary cultural identity and heritage conservation.

## **Preservation Efforts and Cultural Institutions**

Many Bedford estates have been preserved as museums or cultural centers, allowing public access to historical artifacts and educational programs. These efforts ensure that the Bedford series remains an integral part of cultural discourse and heritage preservation.

## **Influence on Contemporary Culture and Scholarship**

The Bedford series continues to inspire scholarly research and artistic endeavors. Its role in history and culture serves as a case study for understanding aristocratic influence, cultural patronage, and historical continuity. Modern interpretations and exhibitions keep the Bedford legacy alive in academic and cultural communities.

1. Historical significance of the Bedford lineage
2. Impact on art and literature
3. Social reforms and philanthropy
4. Preservation of cultural heritage
5. Representation in media and popular culture

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Bedford Series in history and culture?**

The Bedford Series refers to a collection of historical and cultural publications produced by Bedford/St. Martin's, focusing on key texts and critical essays in various humanities disciplines, including history, literature, and cultural studies.

### **Why is the Bedford Series important for studying history and culture?**

The Bedford Series is important because it provides authoritative primary sources, critical analyses, and contextual information that help students and scholars better understand historical events, cultural movements, and literary works.

## **Which subjects are commonly covered in the Bedford Series?**

The Bedford Series commonly covers subjects such as American history, European history, world history, literature, cultural theory, and interdisciplinary studies combining history and culture.

## **How does the Bedford Series contribute to cultural understanding?**

By presenting diverse primary documents and scholarly interpretations, the Bedford Series fosters a deeper appreciation of different cultures, historical perspectives, and societal changes over time.

## **Can the Bedford Series be used for interdisciplinary studies?**

Yes, the Bedford Series is designed to support interdisciplinary studies by combining historical documents with cultural and literary analysis, making it a valuable resource for courses in history, literature, cultural studies, and related fields.

## **Are the Bedford Series texts suitable for undergraduate students?**

Yes, the Bedford Series texts are widely used in undergraduate courses because they provide accessible yet scholarly materials that help students engage critically with historical and cultural content.

## **What types of materials are included in the Bedford Series publications?**

Materials in the Bedford Series include primary source documents, essays, critical introductions, historical timelines, and contextual commentary to enhance understanding of historical and cultural topics.

## **How has the Bedford Series evolved over time?**

The Bedford Series has evolved by incorporating new scholarship, diverse perspectives, and digital resources to reflect ongoing developments in historical and cultural studies, ensuring its continued relevance in academia.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. The Bedford Companion to Shakespeare: An Introduction with Documents*

This book offers a comprehensive introduction to William Shakespeare's works and the historical context in which they were written. It includes a wealth of primary documents, critical essays, and performance history to help readers understand Shakespeare's impact on culture and literature. Ideal for students and enthusiasts alike, it serves as an essential resource for exploring Elizabethan England.

### *2. The Bedford Anthology of World Literature*

A vast collection of literary works from ancient to modern times, this anthology spans multiple cultures and historical periods. It emphasizes the cultural and historical contexts that shaped these works, providing readers with a broad understanding of world literature. The anthology is known for its insightful introductions and helpful annotations.

### 3. *The Bedford Handbook*

A widely used guide for writing, grammar, and research, this handbook is an essential tool for students in the humanities. It covers everything from essay structure to citation styles, with a focus on clear, effective communication. The handbook is frequently updated to reflect current academic standards and practices.

### 4. *The Bedford Guide for College Writers*

This guide supports college students in developing their writing skills across various genres and disciplines. It includes practical advice on research, argumentation, and revision, alongside sample essays and exercises. The guide is praised for its accessible approach and emphasis on critical thinking.

### 5. *The Bedford Reader*

A popular collection of essays, stories, and poems, this reader provides diverse perspectives on contemporary issues and timeless themes. It is designed to engage students in critical reading and writing, with questions and exercises that promote discussion and analysis. The selections highlight cultural and historical contexts.

### 6. *The Bedford Dictionary of American Literature*

This reference book offers concise entries on key authors, works, and literary terms related to American literature. It is a valuable resource for students and scholars seeking clear explanations and historical background. The dictionary helps readers navigate the rich and varied landscape of American literary culture.

### 7. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*

An authoritative guide to literary and critical terminology, this glossary is essential for students of literature and cultural studies. It provides clear definitions and examples, helping readers understand complex concepts and theories. The glossary supports the analysis of texts within their historical and cultural frameworks.

### 8. *The Bedford Cultural Reader*

This reader brings together essays and excerpts that explore key cultural theories and practices from around the world. It encourages readers to think critically about culture, identity, and power in historical and contemporary contexts. The collection is suitable for courses in cultural studies, history, and anthropology.

### 9. *The Bedford History of English Literature*

Covering the development of English literature from its origins to the present day, this history provides detailed analysis and historical context. It highlights major authors, movements, and cultural shifts that shaped the literary tradition. The book is invaluable for understanding the interplay between literature and history.

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**bedford series in history and culture:** *The Bedford Series in History and Culture* , 19??

**bedford series in history and culture:** *Using the Bedford Series in the U.S. History Survey* Scott W. Hovey, 2002 Offers suggestions how to use titles in The Bedford series in history and culture as a supplementary material to a U.S. history survey course. Intended for instructors who adopted: America's history / by Henretta ... et al., America : a concise history / by Henretta ... et al, The American promise / by Roark ... et al., or, The American promise by Roark ... et al, Compact ed.

**bedford series in history and culture:** *Southern Cultures* Harry L. Watson, Jocelyn Neal, 2012-03-01 In the Spring 2012 issue of Southern Cultures... Blood rains. Snow falls. Bourbon makes the man. Irish Americans redefine black and white. Camp Wah-Kon-Dah glows in the embers of old memories. The great teacher Arthur Raper opens minds, hearts, and doors. And the creative spaces of geniuses await the next act. Table of Contents Front Porch by Harry L. Watson What happens to frontier manhood when blacks, women, and gays drink bourbon too—and white fraternity boys get stuck with Smirnoff Ice from time to time? Every Ounce a Man's Whiskey?: Bourbon in the White Masculine South by Sean S. McKeithan The hot bite of the Bourbon sensuously connects the body of the drinker to nation, region, and locale, enjoining his experience with those of imagined, historical bodies, soaking up space and place in the slow burn of what appears an endless southern summertime. Native Ground: Photographs by Rob McDonald If convention has it right, these are writers who bear something close to a genetic predisposition to produce a literature suffused with place. Turned Inside Out: Black, White, and Irish in the South by Bryan Gienza As a place where Black and Green were in perpetual contact, the Atlantic South furnishes an ideal case study in how these peoples moved with, against, and around one another. God First, You Second, Me Third: An Exploration of Quiet Jewishness at Camp Wah- Kon- Dah by Marcie Cohen Ferris This was an anxious time for American Jews, stung by the anti- Semitic quotas and discrimination of the interwar years and the growing horror regarding the fate of European Jewry as the Holocaust came to light in the 1940s. A Mind- Opening Influence of Great Importance: Arthur Raper at Agnes Scott College by Clifford M. Kuhn He was such an eye- opener to me . . . such a reversal of the whole way you think about life and society. For the Scrutiny of Science and the Light of Revelation: American Blood Falls by Tom Maxwell Showers of blood, however dreadful, were not news. Pliny, Cicero, Livy, and Plutarch mentioned rains of blood and flesh. Zeus makes it rain blood, 'as a portent of slaughter,' in Homer's Iliad. Mason- Dixon Lines Bourbon Poetry by R. T. Smith . . . Earl was a steady liar who never in his life solved a single crime, to hear my father tell it, an improvident soul prone to nocturnal misdemeanors himself . . . Southern Snow by Nancy Hatch Woodward There's a silence in a snowy dawn that forces you to look anew at what has been transformed from the customary landscape of your day- to- day life. Dogwoods glisten in their silver finery; bowing fir limbs form a secret cathedral. Southern Cultures is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall, winter) by the University of North Carolina Press. The journal is sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for the Study of the American South.

**bedford series in history and culture:** "God First, You Second, Me Third": An Exploration of "Quiet Jewishness" at Camp Wah-Kon-Dah Marcie Cohen Ferris, 2012-03-01 This was an anxious time for American Jews, stung by the anti-Semitic quotas and discrimination of the interwar years

and the growing horror regarding the fate of European Jewry as the Holocaust came to light in the 1940s. This article appears in the Spring 2012 issue of *Southern Cultures*. The full issue is also available as an ebook. *Southern Cultures* is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall, winter) by the University of North Carolina Press. The journal is sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for the Study of the American South.

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**bedford series in history and culture: A Mind-Opening Influence of Great Importance":** **Arthur Raper at Agnes Scott College** Clifford M. Kuhn, 2012-03-01 He was such an eye-opener to me . . . such a reversal of the whole way you think about life and society. This article appears in the Spring 2012 issue of *Southern Cultures*. The full issue is also available as an ebook. *Southern Cultures* is published quarterly (spring, summer, fall, winter) by the University of North Carolina Press. The journal is sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for the Study of the American South.

**bedford series in history and culture:** *Surviving Wounded Knee* David W. Grua, 2016 A study of the massacre at Wounded Knee in history and memory.

**bedford series in history and culture:** *German Rocketeers in the Heart of Dixie* Monique Laney, 2015-01-01 This thought-provoking study by historian Monique Laney focuses on the U.S. government-assisted integration of German rocket specialists and their families into a small southern community at the end of World War II. In 1950, Wernher von Braun and his team of rocket experts relocated to Huntsville, Alabama, a town that would celebrate the team, despite their essential role in the Nazi war effort a decade earlier, for their contributions to the U.S. Army missile program and later to NASA's space program. Based on oral histories, provided by members of the African American and Jewish communities, the rocketeers' families, and co-workers, friends, and neighbors, Laney's book demonstrates how the histories of German Nazism and Jim Crow in the American South intertwine in narratives about the past. This is a critical reassessment of a singular time that links the Cold War, the "Space Race," and the Civil Rights era while addressing important issues of transnational science and technology, and asking Americans to consider their country's own history of racism when reflecting on the Nazi past.

**bedford series in history and culture: A Peaceful Conquest** Cara Lea Burnidge, 2016-10-19 Intro -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. From Reconstruction to Regeneration -- 2. Christianization of America in the World -- 3. Blessed Are the Peacemakers -- 4. New World Order -- 5. A Tale of Two Exceptionalisms -- 6. The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Woodrow Wilson -- Conclusion: Formulations of Church and State -- Notes -- References -- Index.

**bedford series in history and culture: History and Systems of Psychology** James F. Brennan, Keith A. Houde, 2017-10-26 This classic textbook retains clarity and accessibility in connecting the rich story of psychology's past to contemporary research and applications.

**bedford series in history and culture:** *American Religious History* Gary Scott Smith, 2020-12-07 A mix of thematic essays, reference entries, and primary source documents covering the role of religion in American history and life from the colonial era to the present. Often controversial, religion has been an important force in shaping American culture. Religious convictions strongly influenced colonial and state governments as well as the United States as a new republic. Religious teachings, values, and practices deeply affected political structures and policies, economic ideology and practice, educational institutions and instruction, social norms and customs, marriage, and family life. By analyzing religion's interaction with American culture and prominent religious leaders and ideologies, this reference helps readers to better understand many fascinating, often



controversial, religious leaders, ideas, events, and topics. The work is organized in three volumes devoted to particular periods. Volume one includes a chronology highlighting key events related to religion in American history and an introduction that overviews religion in America during the period covered by the volume, and roughly 10 essays that explore significant themes. These essays are followed by approximately 120 alphabetically arranged reference entries providing objective, fundamental information about topics related to religion in America. Each volume presents nearly 50 primary source documents, each introduced by a contextualizing headnote. A selected, general bibliography closes volume three.

**bedford series in history and culture: *The Soul of America*** Jon Meacham, 2019-04-30 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham helps us understand the present moment in American politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear. "Gripping and inspiring, *The Soul of America* is Jon Meacham's declaration of his faith in America."—Newsday ONE OF OPRAH'S "BOOKS THAT HELP ME THROUGH" • A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: NPR, The Christian Science Monitor, Southern Living Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in *The Soul of America* Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other presidents, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and illuminating the courage of such influential citizen activists as Martin Luther King, Jr., early suffragettes Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt, civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and John Lewis, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Army-McCarthy hearings lawyer Joseph N. Welch, Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history. He writes about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the birth of the Lost Cause; the backlash against immigrants in the First World War and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s; the fight for women's rights; the demagoguery of Huey Long and Father Coughlin and the isolationist work of America First in the years before World War II; the anti-Communist witch-hunts led by Senator Joseph McCarthy; and Lyndon Johnson's crusade against Jim Crow. Each of these dramatic hours in our national life have been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear—a struggle that continues even now. While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, "The good news is that we have come through such darkness before"—as, time and again, Lincoln's better angels have found a way to prevail.

**bedford series in history and culture: *2013*** Massimo Mastrogregori, 2017-11-20 Every year, the Bibliography catalogues the most important new publications, historiographical monographs, and journal articles throughout the world, extending from prehistory and ancient history to the most recent contemporary historical studies. Within the systematic classification according to epoch, region, and historical discipline, works are also listed according to author's name and characteristic keywords in their title.

**bedford series in history and culture: *Liberated Territory*** Yohuru Williams, Jama Lazerow, 2009-01-12 Essays on the Panther Party's local chapters, as well as essays reconsidering the state of the field in 1960s-, Civil Rights-, black nationalist- and popular history in light of these varied accounts of BPP chapters.

**bedford series in history and culture: *Reclaiming the Rural*** Kim Donehower, Charlotte Hogg, Eileen E Schell, 2012 *Reclaiming the Rural* moves beyond typical arguments for the preservation, abandonment, or modernization of rural communities, analyzing how communities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico sustain themselves--economically, environmentally, intellectually, and politically--through literate action.

**bedford series in history and culture: *Afro-Realisms and the Romances of Race*** Melissa Daniels-Rauterkus, 2020-04-15 Winner of the SAML A Studies Award Honorable Mention for the MLA William Sanders Scarborough Prize From the 1880s to the early 1900s, a particularly turbulent period of U.S. race relations, the African American novel provided a powerful counternarrative to

dominant and pejorative ideas about blackness. In *Afro-Realisms and the Romances of Race*, Melissa Daniels-Rauterkus uncovers how black and white writers experimented with innovative narrative strategies to revise static and stereotypical views of black identity and experience. In this provocative and challenging book, Daniels-Rauterkus contests the long-standing idea that African Americans did not write literary realism, along with the inverse misconception that white writers did not make important contributions to African American literature. Taking up key works by Charles W. Chesnutt, Frances E. W. Harper, Pauline Hopkins, William Dean Howells, and Mark Twain, Daniels-Rauterkus argues that authors blended realism with romance, often merging mimetic and melodramatic conventions to advocate on behalf of African Americans, challenge popular theories of racial identity, disrupt the expectations of the literary marketplace, and widen the possibilities for black representation in fiction. Combining literary history with close textual analysis, Daniels-Rauterkus reads black and white writers alongside each other to demonstrate the reciprocal nature of literary production. Moving beyond discourses of racial authenticity and cultural property, Daniels-Rauterkus stresses the need to organize African American literature around black writers and their meditations on blackness, but she also proposes leaving space for nonblack writers whose use of comparable narrative strategies can facilitate reconsiderations of the complex social order that constitutes race in America. With *Afro-Realisms and the Romances of Race*, Daniels-Rauterkus expands critical understandings of American literary realism and African American literature by destabilizing the rigid binaries that too often define discussions of race, genre, and periodization.

**bedford series in history and culture:** *France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History* Michael Burns, 2019-08-09 The unjust conviction of French Jewish Captain Alfred Dreyfus on charges of treason started the Dreyfus affair, a major event in European anti-Semitism. "This documentary history is designed to introduce the broad outlines and significant legacies of the Dreyfus affair, from the captain's arrest in 1894 to the 1998 centennial of J'Accuse, Émile Zola's scathing indictment of the French military... This volume, fashioned for a weeklong assignment in a college course, reproduces the affair's most celebrated texts, as well as less familiar, but no less telling, documents. Presented as a chronological narrative, it charts Captain Dreyfus's case as it unfolded in time, and summarizes the major issues and debates that have survived for the past century." (From the preface by Michael Burns) "A fresh and compelling study of the turn of the century affair in a concise and readable book... A fine compilation of well-chosen documents and lucid analysis... Beyond making this frequently told tale come to life once again (I literally could not put the book down), Burns has given it historical and cultural context." — Donna F. Ryan, Gallaudet University "Michael Burns's volume is imaginatively written, with a keen eye to the drama and desperation of the Dreyfus affair. Its special strength is its learned attention to the political, military, and cultural contexts. Weaving the author's own commentary together with documents from the period, this volume is a splendid guide to one of the most important historical landmarks of our time." — Michael R. Marrus, University of Toronto "In both his analysis and his choice of documents, Michael Burns has brilliantly captured all the complexity and the passion of the Dreyfus affair. I salute his achievement." — Benjamin F. Martin, Louisiana State University

**bedford series in history and culture:** *Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History* Andrew Robertson, Michael A. Morrison, William G. Shade, Robert Johnston, Robert Zieger, Thomas Langston, Richard Valelly, 2010-04-01 Unparalleled coverage of U.S. political development through a unique chronological framework *Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History* explores the events, policies, activities, institutions, groups, people, and movements that have created and shaped political life in the United States. With contributions from scholars in the fields of history and political science, this seven-volume set provides students, researchers, and scholars the opportunity to examine the political evolution of the United States from the 1500s to the present day. With greater coverage than any other resource, the *Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History* identifies and illuminates patterns and interrelations that will expand the reader's understanding of American political institutions, culture, behavior, and change. Focusing on both government and history, the *Encyclopedia* brings exceptional breadth and depth to the topic with more than 100 essays for each

of the critical time periods covered. With each volume covering one of seven time periods that correspond to key eras in American history, the essays and articles in this authoritative encyclopedia focus on the following themes of political history: The three branches of government Elections and political parties Legal and constitutional histories Political movements and philosophies, and key political figures Economics Military politics International relations, treaties, and alliances Regional histories Key Features Organized chronologically by political eras Reader's guide for easy-topic searching across volumes Maps, photographs, and tables enhance the text Signed entries by a stellar group of contributors

**VOLUME 1 ?Colonial Beginnings through Revolution ?1500-1783**  
?Volume Editor: Andrew Robertson, Herbert H. Lehman College ?The colonial period witnessed the transformation of thirteen distinct colonies into an independent federated republic. This volume discusses the diversity of the colonial political experience—a diversity that modern scholars have found defies easy synthesis—as well as the long-term conflicts, policies, and events that led to revolution, and the ideas underlying independence.

**VOLUME 2 ?The Early Republic ?1784-1840**  
?Volume Editor: Michael A. Morrison, Purdue University No period in the history of the United States was more critical to the foundation and shaping of American politics than the early American republic. This volume discusses the era of Confederation, the shaping of the U.S. Constitution, and the development of the party system.

**VOLUME 3 ?Expansion, Division, and Reconstruction ?1841-1877**  
?Volume Editor: William Shade, Lehigh University (emeritus) ?This volume examines three decades in the middle of the nineteenth century, which witnessed: the emergence of the debate over slavery in the territories, which eventually led to the Civil War; the military conflict itself from 1861 until 1865; and the process of Reconstruction, which ended with the readmission of all of the former Confederate States to the Union and the withdrawal of the last occupying federal troops from those states in 1877.

**VOLUME 4 ?From the Gilded Age through the Age of Reform ?1878-1920**  
?Volume Editor: Robert Johnston, University of Illinois at Chicago With the withdrawal of federal soldiers from Southern states the previous year, 1878 marked a new focus in American politics, and it became recognizably modern within the next 40 years. This volume focuses on race and politics; economics, labor, and capitalism; agrarian politics and populism; national politics; progressivism; foreign affairs; World War I; and the end of the progressive era.

**VOLUME 5 ?Prosperity, Depression, and War ?1921-1945**  
?Volume Editor: Robert Zieger, University of Florida Between 1921 and 1945, the U.S. political system exhibited significant patterns of both continuity and change in a turbulent time marked by racist conflicts, the Great Depression, and World War II. The main topics covered in this volume are declining party identification; the Roosevelt Coalition; evolving party organization; congressional inertia in the 1920s; the New Deal; Congress during World War II; the growth of the federal government; Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency; the Supreme Court's conservative traditions; and a new judicial outlook.

**VOLUME 6 ?Postwar Consensus to Social Unrest ?1946-1975**  
?Volume Editor: Thomas Langston, Tulane University This volume examines the postwar era with the consolidation of the New Deal, the onset of the Cold War, and the Korean War. It then moves into the 1950s and early 1960s, and discusses the Vietnam war; the era of John F. Kennedy; the Cuban Missile Crisis; the Civil Rights Act; Martin Luther King and the Voting Rights Act; antiwar movements; The War Powers Act; environmental policy; the Equal Rights Amendment; Roe v. Wade; Watergate; and the end of the Vietnam War.

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