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A NARRATIVE HISTORY

David Emory Shi
Daina Ramey Berry
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AMERICA



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AMERICA

A Narrative History

David Emory Shi
Daina Ramey Berry
Joseph Crespino
Amy Murrell Taylor



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FOR OUR STUDENTS: PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

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PREFACE

For four decades, *America: A Narrative History* has remained among the most popular U.S. history textbooks ever written. Each of its new editions has improved a book celebrated for its compelling narrative prose. Obviously, textbooks are of no use if students do not read them, but a history textbook does not have to be dull and lifeless. A narrative approach, driven by storytelling, can reveal the depth and drama of the past by exposing the textured stories of people—not just the famous and familiar men and women, but also the unknown, unnamed, and forgotten. As a student from Texas recently wrote to author David Shi, “I wanted to tell you how interesting and well-written your history book is! I have found that simply by reading its content, I am personally immersed in the text.” More recently, a high school AP history teacher reported, “This was the only textbook I have ever read and enjoyed reading. And, I have read a lot of textbooks in over 40 years of teaching high school.”

The testimonials, like many that we have received over the years, confirm that a narrative approach works exceptionally well for students and teachers. Ensuring the continued success of that storytelling emphasis was the most important factor in prompting an important change in this new edition. After having been involved with the *America* textbook since 1986, I (David Shi) realized that it is a good time to collaborate with a new team of co-authors. We looked first for co-authors who have great experience and substantial skill at teaching the undergraduate survey course. At the same time, we wanted three new co-authors who are distinguished scholars, and who are themselves diverse in terms of their own background experiences. And, we found them. All of them share a commitment to narrative history, believing as I do that the stories imbedded in American history are vital to student learning. I am pleased to introduce them here:

- **Daina Ramey Berry, Professor of History and Dean of the Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of**

California, Santa Barbara, is an internationally recognized scholar of the experience of gender and slavery in the United States. Her most recent book, *A Black Woman's History of the United States* (co-authored with Kali Nicole Gross), won the 2021 Susan Koppelman Award for the best new book in feminist studies. Berry was also honored with the President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award at the University of Texas, where she served as chair of the history department. She offers workshops to educators on innovative ways to teach the U.S. and African American history survey courses and is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.

- **Joseph Crespino, the Jimmy Carter Professor of History at Emory University in Atlanta** and former chair of the history department, is a specialist in twentieth-century political and cultural history. He was the Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer in American Studies at the University of Tubingen in 2014. Among his widely acclaimed books are an award-winning biography, *Strom Thurmond's America*, and most recently, *Atticus Finch: The Biography*. Crespino has received the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award from the Emory University Center for Teaching and Learning.
- **Amy Murrell Taylor is the T. Marshall Hahn Jr. Professor of History at the University of Kentucky**, where she focuses on gender, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the American South. The U.S. history survey course is one of her favorites to teach, and she has been honored by the university's Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching and Great Teacher Awards. Her latest book, *Embattled Freedom: Journeys through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps*, received several national awards, including the Frederick Douglass Book Prize and the Merle Curti Social History Award.

All three of these distinguished scholar-teachers have frequently taught the U.S. survey course, are skilled at introducing students to the importance of primary sources, write sparkling prose, and are adept at the storytelling art. They have made major contributions to this new edition. As has been the case for forty

years, this revision, like its predecessors, has benefited from fresh material we have added across the entire range of historical fields: political, cultural, social, and economic history. Our team of four diverse scholars has added texture, breadth, and vitality to the textbook while maintaining the cohesion of its narrative voice.

This Brief Thirteenth Edition of *America* features important changes designed to make the text more teachable and classroom friendly. The Brief Thirteenth Edition is 15% shorter than the Full Edition and is an even more affordable option for students. Of special emphasis in this new edition is the importance of women's experiences in the American story. The authors took the existing narrative as a starting point and then wove in stories of women who had been hiding in plain sight—present and influential during some of the biggest, most significant political events and economic trends in American history. Their untold stories became the focus of our revisions. In this new edition are women who have not been typically celebrated in history classrooms but whose histories nonetheless have the power to change the way students understand the American past.

Students will learn about women such as Isabel de Olvera, who traveled with explorers in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries to present-day New Mexico. They will also meet Sarah Bradlee Fulton, who boycotted British products to support the quest for American independence in the late eighteenth century. Likewise, when students read about the 1830s Trail of Tears, they will learn about a woman named Nanyehi, who led the Cherokee nation and became the first female voting member of its General Council. Outspoken and fearless, Nanyehi was one of the most effective voices seeking to protect her community from the forces of removal, revealing Cherokee women to be far more than a nameless, suffering mass of people forced from their homes. Students also will read about Matihilde Hennes, an enslaved woman who fled Louisiana for freedom in Mexico in the 1840s, one of many “freedom seekers” whose courageous escapes inflamed the growing political conflict along the U.S.-Mexico border; and they will meet Catherine Greene, a wealthy southern

widow who provided Eli Whitney with funds and workspace, making possible the invention of the cotton gin.

Textured stories like these help students see the past more fully—but also more profoundly. Women’s reveal significant historical changes often are stimulated by people living at the margins, from the people living outside the centers of power who exert outsized influence over politics, culture, and economy. Aimee Semple McPherson, for example, was perhaps the most charismatic and influential figure in the Protestant Fundamentalist movement of the 1920s. In the Church of the Foursquare Gospel that she organized in Los Angeles, she preached to tens of thousands of believers every week and reached many more through her pioneering use of radio. She is yet another example of the diverse ways women influenced public life.

At the same time, this new edition recognizes that women’s history is full of prominent as well as little-known trailblazers in the continuing fight for rights and equality in the United States. The famous story of how Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention for women’s rights is enriched by accounts of lesser-known women such as Maria Miller Stewart, a public speaker and writer who argued that gaining rights for Black women required combating racial prejudice too. It acknowledges that when Stanton’s Declaration of Sentiments boldly declared, “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal,” the National Convention of Colored Citizens in Cleveland, Ohio, also passed a resolution in the same year proclaiming “the equality of the sexes.” That assumption of equality inspired decades of women’s activism, eventually leading in 1920 to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote, and to the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Yet women distinguished themselves in many other ways. Madam C. J. Walker, born Sarah Breedlove in 1867 to Louisiana sharecroppers, became the nation’s first female self-made millionaire by developing a line of cosmetics and hair-care products for African American women. Her significance extended

well beyond her business success. She became an outspoken champion of social justice for Blacks during the Jim Crow era of racist discrimination. “Don’t sit down and wait for the opportunities to come,” she told women audiences. “Get up and make them!”

The quest for equality went well beyond voting rights. During both world wars in the twentieth century, millions of women assumed roles traditionally played only by men, including military service. They readily filled the job vacancies created by men leaving for military service, and many of them decided to blaze new trails in what for centuries had been known as “a man’s world” of employment, scientific discovery, and political and social leadership. That ongoing story of perseverance and resilience is highlighted in this new edition, along with many other additions that help inform students of the diversity of the American experiment in representative democracy. The enhanced coverage of the women’s experience and their many untold stories brings relevance and meaning for many of today’s students, while making it possible for them to see political, cultural, social, and economic history through a new lens.

Another exciting development in this edition, which derives from the classroom teaching expertise of the new authorial team, is the inclusion, for the first time, of primary source excerpts in every chapter. The new Comparing Perspectives features use primary sources to pair diverse voices speaking on major subjects in each chapter. Each feature connects to character vignettes and first-person quotations in the main narrative, reinforcing the storytelling strength of the book. In [Chapter 3](#), students will review the case of John Punch, an African American indentured servant who received treatment that was different from his fellow servants who were White, contrasted with an indenture contract that outlined the terms of these eighteenth-century agreements. Likewise, the history of the Civil War is enlivened by the writings of two individuals with vastly different points of view on emancipation: Jourdon Anderson, a man newly liberated from slavery in Tennessee who wrote to his former owner requesting payment for years of labor; and Ellen Gertrude Clanton Thomas, a White woman in Georgia who kept a journal documenting her feelings

about losing her plantation's enslaved people. Their writings make clear that emancipation was far more than a monumental political issue for the nation—it was also something lived and felt on a daily basis by millions of people.

In Volume 2, the rise of political conservatism in the 1980s is illuminated through two documents that provide different perspectives on freedom and individualism in American life. In Ronald Reagan's famous "Evil Empire Speech" (a term that he never actually used), the president gave a spirited defense of religious liberty, decrying Soviet suppression of religious faith at a time when his presidential successors had tried to turn down the temperature of the Cold War. Reagan's speech is paired with a 1984 article about Apple's new Macintosh computer, which the company trumpeted as a revolutionary product that would make personal computing easier and more accessible for everyday Americans. From the 1980s forward, computer entrepreneurs would tout the liberating possibilities of technology in transforming how Americans worked, played, and lived. Students are asked to point to specific sentences in both texts that provide different ideas about what freedom and individualism meant in the 1980s.

Whether your historical interests are political, social, cultural, or economic, you'll find new coverage, sources, and resources to enhance your teaching with what continues to be the most well-balanced narrative history of America.

Among the new coverage in this Brief Thirteenth Edition are the following:

Chapter 1: The Collision of Cultures in the Sixteenth Century

- New discussions focus on the role that West African kingdoms and states played in trans-regional trade and how they impacted contact with the Americas.
- New discussions present the global explorations of people of color such as Isabel de Olvera, with her journey to New Mexico, and an African explorer from Spain, Pedro Alonzo

Niño (“El Negro”), who piloted one of Columbus’s expeditions in 1492.

- New coverage of the Little Ice Age shows how environmental changes impacted global populations.

Chapter 2: England and Its American Colonies 1607–1732

- The discussions on the Salem witches have been moved from [Chapter 3](#) to this chapter, and they have been expanded to explore the social and religious dynamics of colonial New England.
- To centralize the major discussion on slavery and other forms of servitude, there is less focus on those topics in [Chapter 2](#) with the primary discussion rooted now in [Chapter 3](#) .

Chapter 3: Colonial Ways of Life 1607–1750

- Major discussions on slavery and servitude have now been centralized in this chapter.
- Expanded discussions on the relationships between masters and indentured servants highlight the differences between slavery and servitude—notably, zeroing in on the experiences of indentured women.
- New and expanded discussions on Indigenous slavery in the Carolinas focus on how the English fomented wars between Indigenous groups to generate more enslaved people for trade, resulting in the number of enslaved Indigenous people in the Caribbean surpassing that of enslaved Africans in the thirteen colonies during this period.
- Revised coverage on the Tuscarora and Yamasee Wars reveals the interplay of complex relationships among Indigenous groups and English colonists in the Carolinas.
- Increased focus on the complexities of the African slave trade reveals the differing or overlapping roles played by Europeans, Africans, and those in the Americas. New discussions also compare features of the African slave trade with those of the transatlantic slave trade, zeroing in on the experiences of enslaved people during the Middle Passage.

- New discussions focus on the religious experiences of free and enslaved Blacks during the Enlightenment.

Chapter 4: From Colonies to States 1607–1776

- Expanded coverage presents the North Carolina Regulators and their protests against colonial government.
- New discussions cover the forced mass migration of European immigrants and enslaved Africans.
- New coverage introduces the Ethiopian Regiment, in which free and enslaved Black people fought alongside the British in exchange for their own independence.

Chapter 5: The American Revolution 1775–1783

- A new vignette shares Francisco de Miranda’s role in the Spanish Alliance.
- New discussions focus on the Continental Army’s racially integrated units, with a vignette on the Sixth Connecticut Regiment that explores what patriotism meant to them and why they decided to join the fight.

Chapter 6: Securing the Constitution and Union 1783–1800

- New and expanded discussions cover the origins of the Electoral College and its current significance.
- Expanded discussions relate how enslaved people used the legal system and courts to argue for their freedom—with a new vignette on Elizabeth Freeman (“Mum Bett”), who successfully did so in Massachusetts.
- New discussions on the Fugitive Slave Law of 1793 include a new vignette on Ona Judge, who escaped enslavement from George Washington’s home in Philadelphia, and the president’s efforts to reenslave her.
- New discussions focus on the diverse roles that women played during the early national period. This includes the section entitled “The Absence of Women”—including Eliza Yonge Wilkinson’s fight for “liberty of thought” for women and

Massachusetts writer Judith Sargent Murray's essay "On the Equality of the Sexes."

Chapter 7: The Early Republic 1800–1815

- New discussions frame the War of 1812 not only in terms of expansion but also in terms of the dispossession of Indigenous people. New text also covers how different Indigenous nations were recruited to fight and were impacted by the war, which greatly reduced their territory and increased western settlement.
- Expanded discussions of the founding fathers point out their contradictory status as both enslavers and American Revolutionaries—specifically, Jefferson's relationship with Sally Hemmings, and the building of the Capitol by enslaved people.
- Expanded discussions on Haitian independence reveal how plantation owners in the United States reacted.
- Expanded discussions on the Treaty of Ghent focus on how plantation owners in the United States demanded payment for losses to the British.

Chapter 8: The Emergence of a Market Economy 1815–1860

- New discussions on the intertwining of the northern and southern economies focus on how insurance companies in the North indemnified enslaved people for plantation owners in the South.
- New discussions cover women and the simplification of living through household inventions such as the first ice cream freezer.
- New discussions on women's work and the household explore the beginnings of the belief in the domestic sphere, with the expectation that working-class women would continue to contribute to the family income through piecemeal cloth work and laundressing while staying closer to their children.
- New discussions explain how Irish women took on and dominated the role of domestics in urban cities, which was

- considered an unsavory job by native-born White women.
- A new discussion explains the role that Catherine Littlefield Green played in perfecting the cotton gin while working with Eli Whitney.
 - New discussions cover the increasing popularity of theater during this period and the impact that actor Fanny Kemble had on its growth.
 - New discussions on the role that women played in early strikes include a new vignette on Louise Mitchell of the New York Tailoresses' Society.

Chapter 9: Nationalism and Sectionalism 1815–1828

- A new biographical sketch of Rachel Jackson discusses how her marriage to Andrew Jackson impacted his presidential career.
- New material on the rise of Black newspapers in the country includes a vignette on *Freedom's Journal*, founded in New York City by free Black men.

Chapter 10: A New Democratic Era 1828–1840

- The chapter title has changed from "The Jacksonian Era" to "A New Democratic Era," reflecting the chapter's widening focus from the impacts of Jackson's presidency to changes in democracy throughout this period.
- Significantly updated material on Indigenous removal includes deepened discussions from the Indigenous perspective, with a focus on the experiences of Indigenous women. It also offers updated discussions on the Second Seminole War in Florida.

Chapter 11: The South and Slavery 1800–1860

- A new chapter introduction reflects the realities and nuances of the American South.
- New discussions and a new map focus on the domestic slave trade routes to the Old Southwest.
- New discussions focus on the experiences of families being divided up and the creation of maroon communities by freedom-seeking slaves on the slave trade routes.

- Updated discussions cover the role of plantation mistresses and their treatment of their enslaved people.
- Updated treatment of the complex relationship among enslaved Black communities includes its impact on the growth in enslaved resistance.

Chapter 12: Religion, Romanticism, and Reform 1800–1860

- Expanded discussions focus on reform-minded Americans and their cultural contributions and values.
- Expanded discussions on the Second Great Awakening cover what groups were driven to religion by increasing secularism in the American population.
- Expanded discussion on transcendentalism addresses its reflective nature as well as a critique of its elitist aspects.
- An expanded vignette on Emerson covers his evolving understanding of gender within the transcendental movement.
- A new vignette presents Frances Ellen Watkins Harper and her work writing and performing protest poetry against slavery and segregation.
- A new vignette presents Charity Bryant, a woman from Massachusetts who was in a romantic relationship with another woman, Sylvia Drake.
- New discussions explore the public school movement and efforts for desegregation in Massachusetts, culminating in the Anti-Segregation Act of 1855.
- New discussions of utopian movements include a new vignette on Scottish immigrant Frances Wright and the contradictions in her attempt to build a racially integrated society in Nashoba, Tennessee, and her role in the New Harmony community.
- The section titled “Anti-Slavery and Women’s Rights Movements” has been reorganized and expanded.

Chapter 13: Western Expansion and Southern Secession 1830–1861

- The Part Opener expands discussion on conflicts over defining citizenship that arose after the end of the Civil War.
- New discussions on the Comanche Empire explore how they fought against encroaching European settlers in the Southwest.
- New discussions focus on freedom-seeking enslaved people heading to Mexico as a part of the broader story of American expansion.
- New vignettes on powerful women introduce Sarah Polk, who influenced the political ascendancy of her husband, James Polk; and Harriet Scott, who fought for freedom alongside her husband, Dred Scott.

Chapter 14: The War of the Union 1861–1865

- Expanded discussions of women who fought in the Civil War, including those in espionage, include a new vignette on Rose O'Neal Greenhow, a spy who helped the Confederate Army win the first battle at Bull Run.
- Expanded discussions focus on politically divided families like that of President Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln, whose stance on the war put a wedge between themselves and their family members who were Southern sympathizers.
- New discussions cover the mobilization of Blacks during the Civil War, focusing on Union military camps.
- A new discussion details African Americans' reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation.
- A new discussion focuses on the medical innovations that resulted from the Civil War, such as the triage system.
- New discussions explain efforts by the Women's Loyal National League to end slavery where it was still being practiced at the end of the war.
- A new conclusion evaluates America's place at the end of the war in regard to liberty and equality for all.

Chapter 15: The Era of Reconstruction 1865–1877

- New discussions focus on how formerly enslaved people demanded payment for work and migrated to find family

members and new opportunities.

- New discussions relate how formerly enslaved people fought for opportunities for education and the establishment of thousands of Black schools through the Freedmen's Bureau.
- New and expanded discussions on the women's suffrage movement include the emerging role that Black women played in the movement.
- New discussions focus on the phenomenon of convict leasing as a form of coerced labor that was introduced in post-Civil War America, particularly in the South.
- A new vignette introduces Victoria Woodhull, a women's rights activist, stockbroker, and journalist who became the first woman to run for president in 1872.
- A new discussion covers the closure of the Freedman's Bank, which left thousands of Black families without their life's savings and dramatically impeded the development of a Black middle class.

Chapter 16: Business and Labor in the Industrial Era 1860–1900

- A new vignette introduces Hettie Greene, the richest woman during the Gilded Age.
- New discussions cover differences in wage labor between men and women.
- A new discussion focuses on women's roles in the Great Railroad Strike of 1877.
- Expanded discussions treat the Knights of Labor and African American men's roles in the organization.
- Expanded discussions explore the role of Asian Americans in the building of the railroads.

Chapter 17: Legends and Realities: The South and the West 1865–1900

- Updated discussions focus on the Lost Cause myth and the realities of the American South post-Reconstruction.
- Expanded discussions on the disenfranchisement of African American voters include a new vignette on Congressman John