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# The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History Of The American People



## Synopsis

Known for its balanced voice and approachable scholarship, Alan Brinkley's best-selling *The Unfinished Nation* offers a concise, yet thorough survey of American History appropriate for students at all levels. The 8th edition features new scholarship and updated discussions, most significantly on the topics of War, American Imperialism, and Globalization. Brinkley's accessible narrative is available as a digital SmartBook, a personalized eBook that enhances understanding by asking students to demonstrate comprehension as they read. It is also supported by engaging digital tools, such as interactive maps, that encourage critical thinking and retention of key course concepts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In addition to being a best selling textbook author, ALAN BRINKLEY is the Allan Nevins Professor of History and former Provost at Columbia University. He is the author of *Voices of Protest: Huey Long, Father Coughlin, and the Great Depression*, which won the 1983 National Book Award; *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War*; and *Liberalism and its Discontents*. His most recent books are *John F. Kennedy: The American Presidents Series: The 35th President, 1961-1963* and *The Publisher: Henry Luce and His American Century* both published recently. He was educated at Princeton and Harvard and taught previously at MIT, Harvard, and the City University Graduate School before joining the Columbia faculty in 1991. In 1998-1999, he was the Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University. He won the Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Award at Harvard in 1987 and the Great Teacher Award at Columbia in 2003. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the board of trustees

of the National Humanities Center and Oxford University Press, and chairman of the board of trustees of the Century Foundation. He has been a visiting professor at Princeton, the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris), and the University of Torino (Italy). He was the 1998-1999 Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University.

I bought this for myself, not for a class, because I wanted something comprehensive. I was prepared to sacrifice readability if necessary. But this is beautifully written, even-handed (as far as I can tell), intelligent without requiring a lot of prior knowledge, and mercifully lacking in that *“welcome to my suffocating, hermetically sealed moral universe”* flavor that a lot of textbooks used to have. The price may not be conducive to casual reading, ditto the layout (though I got used to it pretty quickly), but if those are not deal-breakers, I heartily recommend this book.

History never really changes, so I decided to buy this older edition of the book my professor suggested for his class just because he requires the book. It has all the same facts and dates as the newer books, but does lack some of the little quiz questions that I've found are present in the newer editions. My professor was understanding of this, though others may not be. Still, it's a good cheap book and helps me make fairly good notes. It didn't seem much worse for wear, either.

Simply an excellent resource of American History. American history is actually a pretty complicated and sometimes a not so pretty picture when you dig into the details and conflicts among politicians, countries (America, England, France, Spain), movements, and institutions. The Unfinished Nation does a very good job of telling the reader how everything transpired. After you read this, you will probably feel that we are lucky to have come through all of this to be the nation we are today.

My 19 year old son loves history and had to purchase this for his first history class in college. When I asked if he wanted to resell it he said no because it was an interesting read! He said the book was way better than the history class because the teacher didn't know half about what she was trying to teach (her specialty and passion was another time and place - so why was she teaching US History to 1865?) and no one else in the class liked history - it was just something they did to jump through a hoop in their education. It got to the point where the teacher would ask a question and he was the only one who would raise his hand. Then the teacher would say - does anyone know besides "....". Now if my son could only find a career connected to history - using his knowledge other than

teaching (which he is NOT interested in)

Loved this book... I am not American but I feel like through this book I have learned all of the history possible...

It contains accurate info but the info it contains is so broad that it skims over most of US History--I guess a textbook is supposed to do that in a general sense, but as a professor I found it lacking and wouldn't have chosen this one for my course. I see that it comes with nice online components and is fairly modern but as a student reading it for a self-propelled style course that I took for fun I found that many of the test questions weren't even in this material and I could read it and not know about more than half of what I read. I did appreciate details that weren't in the textbooks of the 1990's like union strikes and monopoly dealings and a greater emphasis on race relations in mining and Native American dealings (more history being revealed) but over all I found the book a bit boring and strangely organized and lacking in depth.-- It jumps too fast post 1900 onward.--It seems to be cramming more history into the same length of textbook these days is their solution to the problem of more and more history being revealed, but I found it more of a problem. 2.5 stars.

Very good product.

Great buy for a college mom

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