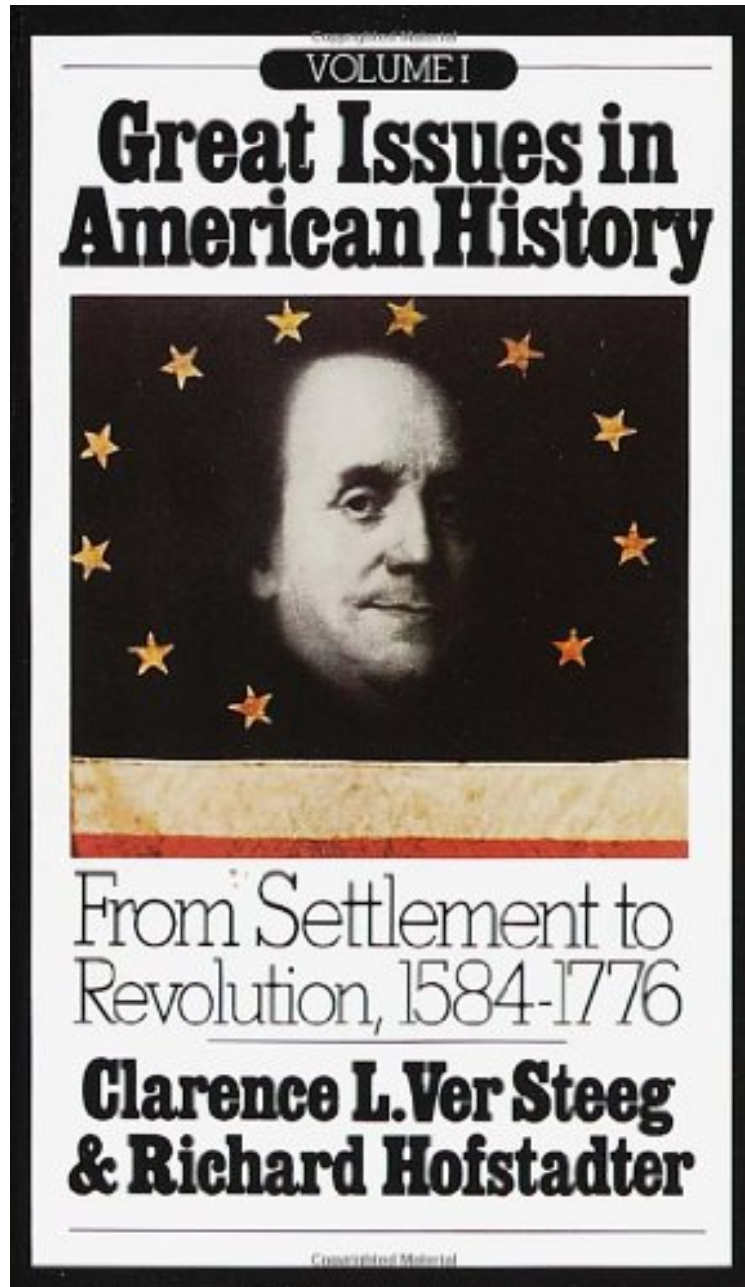


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Great Issues in American History, Vol. I: From Settlement to Revolution, 1584-1776

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From Vintage : Great Issues in American History, Vol. I: From Settlement to Revolution, 1584-1776 before

purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Great Issues in American History, Vol. I: From Settlement to Revolution, 1584-1776*:

1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Fault is My Own
By Strawgold
This book is important, but dry - and I did my best, (I find my "best" keeps changing so who knows for later) but I couldn't wade through it right now with any degree of mental stimulation from the authors - which was too bad, too as it dealt with the original documents and words of the participants at the time (which may have been part of problem). It reminds me of why I didn't like history when I was in school, and is the reason I'm going back now - at this point in time - to round out what I missed out of boredom then (and immaturity) to try to ferret out some better historians with a more flavorful flair for turning their writing talents loose. Nonetheless, I clearly see it's value; I know it is worthy of any serious historian, and the fault is my own. I encourage anyone who has thought about going back and refreshing American History to jump off and go for it. It's amazing. But if you go *here* to do it, be forewarned that it is very dated in it's writing format, and the same history can be found elsewhere in livelier form. It certainly wasn't dull while it was happening, and it shouldn't be tedious to read of it now. There was one chapter (pg 186) that caught my attention - "Adam Smith, conclusion of the mercantile system". This man offered a no-nonsense approach to addressing the existing disparities in the "import/export" and therefore the "supply/demand" while establishing a vigorous American economy free from British interference. I hadn't read too much about him before. He was free with his thoughts about Britain "pretending" to make economic sense with their agendas, while in practice the opposite effect occurred, that of stifling the Colonists, and negating their own internal efforts to establish strong trade that benefited them not only as individual craftsmen, but as a nation aggregate. He could see an "imbalance" of trade and he could see the reason why: the colonists themselves were being used as cheap labor to produce for exportation, while "tools of the trade" that would allow expansion of talents were all but impossible to import, to effectively suppress competition from the colonists - as they would gain greater strength and skills from such purchases by manufacturers that had already fine-tuned some of the processes, thereby becoming a strong, independent nation and thereby also an inherent threat to the Motherland. It's a very good book for scholars, but I didn't have the strength or patience at this point to digest all of it - although I probably will go back later and "take it on."
0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Keith
Item exactly as described. Thank you!
16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Historical Genius
By A Customer
This is going to be short and sweet. The book is excellent for research. It gives you a history of the events that occurred throughout the time period of 1584 - 1775 and then includes primary documents. There are many different perspectives from one document to another. If you're interested in history or are doing research on a particular subject in this era, I would recommend this book to you.

This first volume of *Great Issues in American History* -- three volumes of documents that cover the history of America from its settlement to the present -- gives us a generous sampling from the major political controversies in the Colonial period. Included are such documents as Richard Hakluyt's "Discourse of Western Planting" (1584), "Letter from Christopher Columbus to the King and Queen of Spain" (undated, probably 1694), "The Third Virginia Charter" (1612), Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" (1776) and "The Declaration of independence" (July 4, 1776). Each has an explanatory headnote, and there are brief general introductions that set the selections in their historical context. In order to fit both Colonial and Early National courses, documents covering 1765-1776 appear at the end of this volume and again at the beginning of Volume II. Volume II From the Revolution to the Civil War, 1765-1865 Edited by Richard Hofstadter
Volume III From Reconstruction to the Present Day, 1864-1981 Edited by Richard Hofstadter and Beatrice K. Hofstadter

From the Inside Flap
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About the Author
Richard Hofstadter (1916-1970) was one of the leading American historians and intellectuals of the twentieth century. Throughout his career, he worked at many universities, most recently as the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University. His works include the Pulitzer Prizewinning *The Age of Reform* and *Anti-intellectualism in American Life*.
Clarence L. Ver Steeg was a distinguished historian and scholar. He taught history at Northwestern University for decades and served as the dean of the graduate school for 11 years. Northwestern recognized his contributions by establishing the Clarence L. Ver Steeg

Professorship in the Arts and Sciences. He published 11 monographs and textbooks, dozens of scholarly articles, and more than 100 book reviews. Ver Steeg passed away in 2007.