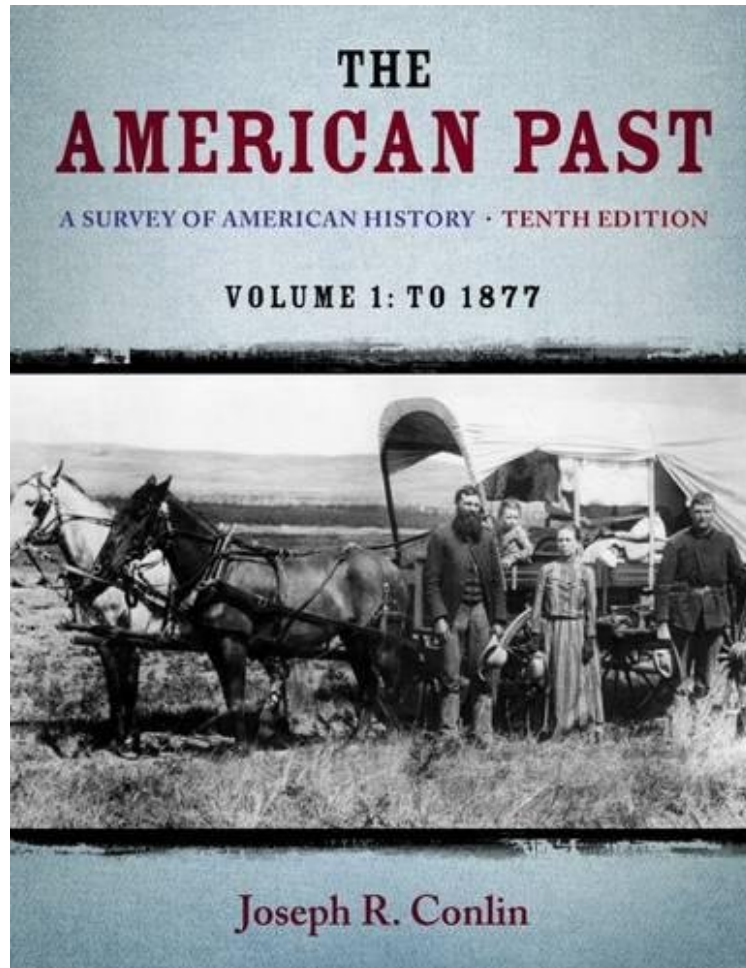


The American Past: A Survey of American History, Volume I: To 1877

Joseph R. Conlin

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Joseph R. Conlin : The American Past: A Survey of American History, Volume I: To 1877 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Past: A Survey of American History, Volume I: To 1877:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very casual language, but highly informative with a different viewpoint than other history textbooks.By Wookiee RageI rented this as a textbook for school. It certainly takes a different view on history, and breaks a lot of normative assumptions about our founding fathers. The language is very casual, at times almost too much so, but once I got over that it has been an entertaining and informative text.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Engaging, Fun to Read, May be TrivialBy RI've used it in 10th grade high school class and now I am a junior in college. I do not know if it was the teacher or the book, but it remains as my favorite history class ever. I remember most of the materials in this book better than things I've learned from other

history courses I took last semester. This book is the only textbook I still have from high school.

Fact: Author has voice
Pro:The author is witty and makes the book interesting. The characters (historical figures) come alive and I could clearly imagine in my head Andrew Jackson in this political campaign, and Henry Clay in midst of tension between Senate House of Reps. Makes it easier to remember the facts.
Con:Is it a truly good thing for a history textbook to have a voice? The author seems to be biased towards certain characters more than the others and this shows since he actually lets out his voice in the book. This would make the book a good side-book to have along with another textbook, or a good read for a reader already knowledgeable about US history. Also, because he lets his opinion sneak out in between the lines, sometimes there are too many trivial facts that may not be necessary in an intro course.

5 Stars because I absolutely love this book, even the trivial parts-- I still remember random facts from the book because they are just very interesting. I hated history before this textbook, and now I got to love it. I am now able to understand (or at least attempt to understand) the motives behind historical figures and the current pattern in history, rather than simply memorizing dates and trial names.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very informational and easy to read
By Rachel
Used this book for an online history class. Very informational and easy to read.

America's past is full of politics as well as personal stories. That's why Conlin's *THE AMERICAN PAST: A SURVEY OF AMERICAN HISTORY* teaches history the way it happened: real people with real stories. Through short narratives from political figures' lives, you'll discover how our nation grew from a colonial project to an international superpower. Along the way, you'll find the human dimension emphasized with the stories of men and women of different regional, socioeconomic, and ethnic backgrounds described in colorful detail.

"I give the Conlin text an A+ on readability." "In my view [Conlin] has two related strengths: clear, compelling writing and pithy profiles of individual human beings who populate the text. This is a story with colorfully drawn characters. It works very well as a relatively traditional but very smart political history."

About the Author Joseph Conlin was born in Philadelphia and educated at Villanova University (A.B.) and the University of Wisconsin (M.A., Ph.D.). He taught American history at half a dozen colleges and universities, spending most of his career at California State University, Chico. He was a Fulbright Professor in Rome and Salzburg and was twice Visiting Senior Lecturer at the Social History Centre at Warwick University, England. For 30 years (60 semesters), with a few subtracted for sabbaticals, he taught between one and four sections of the United States history survey course each term, a total of about 200 times. He won four awards for excellence in teaching. Conlin has written a dozen books, about 70 articles in scholarly journals and magazines of popular history, some 100 book reviews in a variety of journals, and more newspaper journalism than he can or cares to remember. Several of his published essays and one book were awarded "best of the year" prizes.