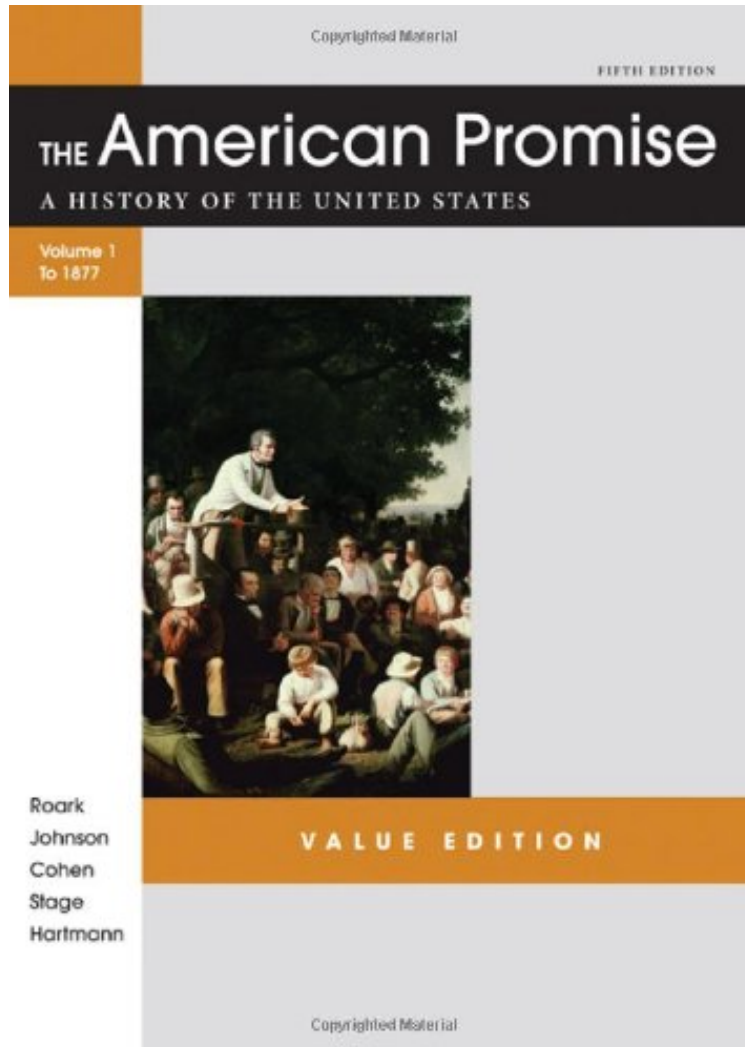


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The American Promise Value Edition, Volume I: To 1877: A History of the United States

James L. Roark, Michael P. Johnson, Patricia Cline Cohen, Sarah Stage, Susan M. Hartmann
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skimming through the required reading with the anticipation of the end of my class. Perhaps it had to do with the professor, but I think the book makes a significant impact on a class. I had a terrible professor last year, but saved the book from her class and still continue to refer to it often. I listed and sold this book the day after the class was over so I could get my money back. It is hard to make a history textbook interesting, and I have yet to read an actual "exciting" history textbook. However, this one isn't exciting nor interesting. I never used it in an essay, and I have never needed the content found in it since I sold it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pass, Passable U.S. History Book By Reviewinator This is a very traditional textbook. It focuses on the "Big Man, Big Event" Theory to U.S. History. It is lacking in maps and in other visuals. It is a good textbook if you want to know how U.S. History used to be taught and how to teach only to one part of your audience. I give it 3 stars because it does a fair job of coverage and provides a good narrative to U.S. History. There are other textbook out there that are better, more inclusive, and frankly, more teachable. It is a good book to give the framework or the structure of U.S. History, but not one that demonstrates the advances made in U.S. History textbooks in the last 20 years. I am a history teacher in High School that has taught from many different books over the years, has taught AP and Junior College classes. In included the last so that you would understand my background for the review. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Great Primer and Foundation Builder By T.J. Blackburn This book review was syndicated from my blog [...] With the 2012 Presidential Elections looming around the corner, I find it very helpful to know the historical context of some of the issues driving the U.S. today. American Promise, Vol. II does not disappoint in this regard. Surveying U.S. history from the Reconstruction to the end of the 2nd Bush administration, this textbook touches on the major themes and events of the last 150 years. Although this "Value Edition" (read: paperback, black white photos, etc) does not go in depth on some of the particulars or nuances of the various eras covered within, the information that Mr. Roark et al share with the undergrad student is sufficient to whet the appetite for extracurricular edification. I definitely recommend that the reader take notes on anything that pique their interest and read up on it on their own. This book really only gives background information and history, real history, is too complex and dynamic to cover in 600 pages. The only thing negative--if you even want to call it "negative"--that I could say about this college textbook is that it ends at the beginning of 2007 and only hints on W's plan for the 2007/2008 troop surge. It does not cover the Great Recession or the 2008 elections or anything else that has happened since. I am left to wonder if the authors' analysis of the last decade or three would be different that what is in this book. Otherwise this is a great and quick educational read.

The new two-color Value Edition of The American Promise is the ideal solution for instructors and students who want a full-length narrative at a low price. A clear political framework supports a dynamic social and cultural story enlivened by the voices of hundreds of Americans who help students connect with history and grasp important concepts.

About the Author JAMES L. ROARK Born in Eunice, Louisiana, and raised in the West, James L. Roark received his B.A. from the University of California, Davis, and his Ph.D. from Stanford University. His dissertation won the Allan Nevins Prize. Since 1983, he has taught at Emory University, where he is Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of American History. In 1993, he received the Emory Williams Distinguished Teaching Award, and in 2001/2002 he was Pitt Professor of American Institutions at Cambridge University. He has written *Masters without Slaves: Southern Planters in the Civil War and Reconstruction* (1977). With Michael P. Johnson, he is author of *Black Masters: A Free Family of Color in the Old South* (1984) and editor of *No Chariot Let Down: Charleston's Free People of Color on the Eve of the Civil War* (1984).