

Contents

Preface to the fourth edition	7
1. Historical Outline	9
1.1. Colonial Period	9
1.2. Independence	11
1.3. Continental Expansion	15
1.4. Civil War (War of Secession)	17
1.5. The South in the Reconstruction Period	19
1.6. Industrial Revolution and Big Business	20
1.7. Overseas Expansion	23
1.8. World War I	25
1.9. Interwar Period	26
1.10. World War II	29
1.11. Postwar Leadership	31
1.12. National Unrest	40
1.13. Recession and the Decline of Leadership	48
1.14. Presidents of the United States	59
2. Physical Geography and Natural Resources	61
2.1. Climate	61
2.2. Physical Divisions	62
2.3. Environment	66
3. The Regions	68
3.1. New England (Northeast)	69
3.2. Middle Atlantic States	69
3.3. The Middle West	70
3.4. The Great Plains	71
3.5. The South	72
3.6. The Southwest	75
3.7. Rockies and Plateau Region	76
3.8. California	77
3.9. The Pacific Northwest	78
3.10. Alaska	78

4. National Parks	80
5. List of States and Capitals	85
6. Great Cities	87
6.1. Washington	87
6.2. New York	89
6.3. Boston	91
6.4. Chicago	91
6.5. New Orleans	93
6.6. San Francisco	94
6.7. Los Angeles	96
7. Economy	99
7.1. Big Business and Multinationals	100
7.2. Labour Unions	101
7.3. The Consumer	103
7.4. Agriculture	104
7.5. Fishing	110
7.6. Forestry	111
7.7. Minerals	111
7.8. Fuels and Electricity	113
7.9. Industry	117
7.10. Trade	123
7.11. Communications	127
8. Population Structure	132
8.1. Europeans	133
8.2. Blacks	134
8.3. Indians	139
8.4. Hispanics	144
8.5. Orientals	146
8.6. Eskimos	147
8.7. The Population and Social Security Benefits	147
9. American Society	149
9.1. -The American Dream of a Classless Society	149
9.2. Pluralism and Distrust of Authority	149
9.3. The Influence of Religion	150

Contents

9.4.	Public Spirit and Gregariousness	151
9.5.	Women	152
9.6.	Sex Revolution	155
9.7.	Decline of Individualism	156
9.8.	Youth Movements	156
9.9.	A Decadent Society?	157
10.	The American Character	159
11.	Government	162
11.1.	The American Constitution	162
11.2.	Federal Government	163
11.3.	State Governments	168
11.4.	Local Government	169
11.5.	Parties	170
12.	Law	172
12.1.	Judicial Institutions	173
12.2.	Sentencing	175
12.3.	Crisis of American Justice	176
13.	Education	178
13.1.	Special Features	178
13.2.	Educational System	179
13.3.	School Reforms Since the Sixties	182
13.4.	Education of Blacks	183
13.5.	Student Revolts and their Aftermath	183
13.6.	Concern About Educational Standards in the USA	184
13.7.	School Prayer and Censorship	185
13.8.	The Computer Generation	186
14.	Religion	187
14.1.	Historical Background	187
14.2.	Denominations	188
14.3.	Religious Life Today	191
15.	Phases of American Thought	196
15.1.	Puritanism	196
15.2.	Age of Reason	196

Contents

15.3.	Frontier Spirit	197
15.4.	Transcendentalism	198
15.5.	Manifest Destiny	199
15.6.	Social Darwinism	199
15.7.	Pragmatism	200
15.8.	The Lost Generation and Freud	202
15.9.	The Beat Generation	203
15.10.	The New Left	204
15.11.	Pop Culture	205
15.12.	Neo-Conservatism (The New Right)	205
16.	Language	208
16.1.	Foreign Vocabulary	208
16.2.	Standard Speech and Regional Standards	208
16.3.	Changes in Word Meaning	209
16.4.	New Technical Terms	210
16.5.	Group Designations	210
16.6.	Word Formation	211
16.7.	Grammatical and Idiomatic Characteristics	211
16.8.	Spelling	212
16.9.	Pronunciation	212
16.10.	Influence on European Languages	212
17.	The Media	214
17.1.	The Press	214
17.2.	Television	219
18.	The Arts	223
18.1.	Painting	223
18.2.	Modern Sculpture	235
18.3.	Architecture	237
18.4.	Films	243
18.5.	Music	247
Index		257
Acknowledgements		271
Appendix: Figures 1–4		