

# Contents

<i>List of plates</i>	xi
<i>List of figures</i>	xv
<i>List of tables</i>	xvii
<i>Preface and acknowledgements</i>	xix
<i>Chronology of significant dates in American history</i>	xxi
<b>1 The American context</b>	<b>1</b>
Ethnic culture	5
Religious culture	8
Political-legal culture	9
Economic culture	10
Media cultures	12
Arts, sports and leisure cultures	12
National identity	13
Social and institutional change	18
American attitudes to US society	19
<i>Exercises</i>	22
<i>Further reading</i>	23
<i>Websites</i>	24
<b>2 The country</b>	<b>25</b>
Political ecology	26
Natural resources, economic development and environmental concerns	26
Climate	35
The regions: cultural geography	37
Native American cultural regions	37

	Cultural regions in the contemporary US	41
	Changing public attitudes: where do we go from here?	50
	<i>Exercises</i>	51
	<i>Further reading</i>	52
	<i>Websites</i>	52
<b>3</b>	<b>The people: settlement and immigration</b>	<b>53</b>
	Mother of exiles	54
	Early encounters between Europeans and Native Americans	56
	The founders	57
	The first wave: colonial immigration, 1680–1776	59
	The second wave: the “old” immigrants, 1820–90	61
	Settlement patterns and nativism	62
	The third wave: the “new” immigrants, 1890–1930	64
	A renewed immigration debate and immigration restriction	64
	Wartime policies and the search for principle in immigration policy	67
	The fourth wave: 1965 to the present	68
	Attitudes to immigrants: the contemporary debate	71
	<i>Exercises</i>	75
	<i>Further reading</i>	76
	<i>Websites</i>	76
<b>4</b>	<b>The people: women and minorities</b>	<b>77</b>
	The reason for American women’s and minority history	78
	Women in America	78
	Native Americans	85
	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans	94
	African Americans	96
	Asian Americans	103
	Latinos	107
	<i>Exercises</i>	113
	<i>Further reading</i>	113
	<i>Websites</i>	114
<b>5</b>	<b>Religious cultures</b>	<b>115</b>
	Religious history	117
	Contemporary US religion	125
	Church, state and politics	130
	Religion and education	133
	Attitudes to religion	135
	<i>Exercises</i>	138

<i>Further reading</i>	138
<i>Websites</i>	139
<b>6 Political institutions: the federal government</b>	<b>141</b>
Historical origins	142
The constitutional framework	143
The political parties	149
The legislative branch	154
The executive branch	161
The judicial branch	175
Attitudes to branches of the federal government	178
<i>Exercises</i>	179
<i>Further reading</i>	180
<i>Websites</i>	180
<b>7 Political institutions: state and local government</b>	<b>181</b>
The place of state government in American federalism	182
The evolution of state government and federalism in the US	185
The structure of state government	188
Local government	192
<i>Exercises</i>	197
<i>Further reading</i>	197
<i>Websites</i>	198
<b>8 Foreign policy</b>	<b>199</b>
A nation apart? American attitudes to world affairs	200
From neutrality to isolationism, 1776–1830	204
From expansionism to imperialism, 1783–1914	205
Isolationism and internationalism, 1914–45	208
The Cold War era, 1946–92	211
The sole superpower in the post-Cold War era	216
The foreign policy establishment debate	220
<i>Exercises</i>	223
<i>Further reading</i>	224
<i>Websites</i>	225
<b>9 The legal system</b>	<b>227</b>
Legal history	230
The sources of US law	233
The court system	233

Federal and state court proceedings	238
The legal profession	240
Crime and punishment	243
Attitudes to the legal system	250
<i>Exercises</i>	252
<i>Further reading</i>	252
<i>Websites</i>	253
<b>10 The economy</b>	<b>255</b>
Economic history	256
American economic liberalism: theory and practice	261
Social class and economic inequality	263
The contemporary economy	264
Industry and manufacturing	269
Service industries	270
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	271
Environmental issues	272
Financial and industrial institutions	274
Attitudes to the economic system	279
<i>Exercises</i>	281
<i>Further reading</i>	281
<i>Websites</i>	282
<b>11 Social services</b>	<b>283</b>
Social services history	285
The organization of contemporary social services	289
Public social services	289
The needy and the poverty line	294
Voluntary services	295
Healthcare	296
Housing	301
Attitudes to social services	305
<i>Exercises</i>	307
<i>Further reading</i>	307
<i>Websites</i>	308
<b>12 Education</b>	<b>309</b>
American attitudes to education: high expectations	310
American educational history	311
Elementary and secondary schools	319
Higher education	327

Recent problems and policy debates	331
<i>Exercises</i>	333
<i>Further reading</i>	334
<i>Websites</i>	334
<b>13 The media</b>	<b>337</b>
Media history	340
Freedom of the media	344
The contemporary print media	346
The contemporary broadcasting media	351
The internet and new media sources	357
Attitudes to the media	359
<i>Exercises</i>	361
<i>Further reading</i>	361
<i>Websites</i>	362
<b>14 Arts, sports and leisure cultures</b>	<b>363</b>
The arts	366
Sports	378
Leisure	384
<i>Exercises</i>	388
<i>Further reading</i>	389
<i>Websites</i>	390
<i>Appendices</i>	
Declaration of Independence in Congress, July 4, 1776	391
Constitution of the United States of America and Amendments	394
<i>Index</i>	413