

BIBLIOGRAPHY & OTHER SOURCE MATERIALS

BOOKS

Bernard Bailyn, *The Origins of American Politics*, 1967.

Bill Bishop, *The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart*, 2008

Michael A. Blaakman, *Speculation Nation: Land Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic*, 2023

Michael Coffman, *Rescuing a Broken America: Why America is Deeply Divided and How to Heal it Constitutionally*, 2010

David Hackett Fischer, *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*, 1989
**If you want to detailed and fascinating treatment of our colonial origins, this is a great book. It's very long, however.*

Steven Hahn, *Illiberal America: A History*, 2024

Clare Jackson, *Devil-Land: England Under Siege, 1588-1688*, 2021

Donald Cohen & Allen Mikaelian, *The Privatization of Everything: How the Plunder of Public Goods Transformed America and How We Can Fight Back*, 2021

Jill Lepore, *These Truths: A History of the United States*, 2018
**Perhaps the best "new" textbook, but don't think of it that way. It's a comprehensive history of the United States.*

George Packer, *Last Best Hope: American in Crisis and Renewal*, 2021

Seth David Radwell, *American Schism: How the Two Enlightenments Hold the Secret to Healing Our Nation*, 2021

Heather Cox Richardson, *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*, 2023
**HCR has a decidedly liberal point of view, but this an excellent history of our political divisions. How got here.*

Russell Shorto, *The Island at the Center of the World*, 2004

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 1812

Barbara Tuchman, *The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam*, 2011

Wendy L. Wall, *Inventing the "American Way" – The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement*, 2008

Gordon D. Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*, 1991

Colin Woodard, *American Nations: A History of Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, 2011, 2022
** This is the book that will anchor this course.*

Colin Woodard, *Union: The Struggle to Forge the Story of the United States*, 2021

*This book furthers the story of the American Nations, a narrative history of three Americans who lived through the formative period of the United States, roughly 1800 to 1890. One is a New Englander from Puritan stock who became one of our greatest historians; the second is a South Carolinian who became a revered southern writer, and unapologetically supports slavery; and the third, a boy born into slavery in the Tidewater and grows up in the border city of Baltimore, eventually became the most famous and important escaped slave in Civil War America. They represent the divisions in the United States; how did they view the nation each one of them loved?

Fareed Zakaria, *Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present*, 2024

*In my opinion, this is a great book. It is interesting, full of detail, but not overly dense. It begins with the Revolutions in Europe and the United States that led to liberal democracy and ends with an excellent overview of the rise of populism and illiberalism in Europe and America. Really terrific.

DOCUMENTS

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* Federalist #10

John Winthrop, *A Modell of Christian Charity*, Massachusetts Historical Society, Winthrop Family Papers, John Winthrop aboard the *Arabella*, 1630

The Declaration of Independence

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of the United States

NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Fixing American Democracy

Many Voters say Congress is Broken. Could proportional representation fix it?

Hansi Lo Wang, *NPR*, 11/18/23. <https://www.npr.org/2023/11/18/1194448925/congress-proportional-representation-explainer>

American Democracy is Cracking. These Ideas Could Help Repair It: The problems with the US political system can, at times, feel overwhelming and intractable. But solutions can become reality when ordinary citizens engage, Dan Balz, *The Washington Post*, 12/21/23.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/12/21/fix-american-democracy-voting-rights-supreme-court-senate/>

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The Big Question: Opinion -- Where is the voice to unite a divided America?, David Von Drehl, *The Washington Post*, 1/7/24. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/01/07/divided-america-pop-culture-unity-2024/>

Opinion: The Founders' antidote to demagoguery is a lesson for today, Jeffrey Rosen, *The Washington Post*, 2/21/24. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/02/20/founding-fathers-demagogues-civic-virtue>

Can we heal a divided America? Ask Peter Biehl – Do we really want our crisis to be healed? David Evans, *Psychology Today*, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/can-t-we-all-just-get-along/202012/can-we-heal-divided-america-ask-peter-biehl>

Worried about America? 4 ways you can help the nation heal right now, Seth Cohen, *Forbes*, 1/10/21, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/sethcohen/2021/01/10/worried-about-america-4-ways-you-can-help-the-nation-heal-right-now/?sh=512ffe36525f>

How to See & Understand History

Opinion: How we learn to see history: a case study at the National Cathedral, Sarah Lewis, *The Washington Post*, 1/14/24. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/01/14/martin-luther-king-national-cathedral-seeing-race-history/>

Retelling US history with Native Americans at the center: A new account by the Yale historian New Blackhawk argues that Native peoples shaped the development of American democracy while being dispossessed of their land, Alan Taylor, *The New York Times*, 5/15/23 <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/23/books/review/the-rediscovery-of-america-ned-blackhawk.html>

What the Civil War was about, Paul Krugman, *The New York Times*, 1/2/24. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/02/opinion/haley-civil-war-slavery.html>

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Half of recent US inflation is due to high corporate profits, report finds: ThinkTank report says "resounding evidence" shows companies continue to keep profits high even as their inflationary costs drop, Tom Perkins, *The Guardian*, 1/19/24. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/jan/19/us-inflation-caused-by-corporate-profits>

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Miscellaneous

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<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/04/16/religion-politics-republicans-abortion-trump/>

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Political Polarization

Science is revealing why American politics are so intensely polarized. Political psychologists say they see tribalism intensifying, fueled by contempt for the other side. Joel Achenbach, *Washington Post*, 1/20/24. <https://wapo.st/3Sps7K>

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The conspiracy to end America review: Trump and the fascist threat, Lloyd Green, *The Guardian*, 10/15/23.

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Trump wants to abandon Ukraine. Will America First Win?, Robert Kagan, *The Washington Post*, 3/29/24. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/03/28/robert-kagan-trump-ukraine-america-first-isolationism/>

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Race & Identity

Opinion: Our true feelings about race and identity are revealed in six words, Michele Norris, *The Washington Post*, 1/11/24. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/interactive/2024/race-identity-michele-norris-hidden-conversations-race-card-project/>

* Really interesting

Supreme Court

Supreme Court poised to appoint federal judges to run the US economy, Robert B. Hubbell, *Today's Edition Newsletter*, 1/18/24. <https://roberthubbell.substack.com/p/supreme-court-poised-to-appoint-federal>

Trump v. Biden Performance

Ten charts compare Joe Biden's record with Donald Trump's Who comes out better? *The Economist*, 1/20/24. <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2024/01/05/ten-charts-compare-joe-bidens-record-with-donald-trumps>

Biden's economy vs. Trump's in 12 charts, Abha Bhattarai, *The Washington Post*, 12/23/23 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/12/23/trump-biden-us-economy-compared/>

Donald Trump poses the biggest danger to the world in 2024, *The Economist*, 11/17/23. <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2023/11/16/donald-trump-poses-the-biggest-danger-to-the-world-in-2024>

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Who Are We Americans Now? And who will we be under Trump?, Paul Star, *The American Prospect*. 12/19/16. <https://prospect.org/power/americans-now/>

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INTERESTING RESOURCES

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/a-brief-history-of-the-united-states-accents-and-dialects-180983591/?ref=thebrowser.com>

* Great article on accents

<https://www.vox.com/2015/3/3/8053521/25-maps-that-explain-english>

* Video on American regional accents

The Moth Radio Hour, Live From Dayton, Story by Jackie Andrews, "Feedlot Calves," 11/17/20.
Starts: 21:46. <https://themoth.org/stories/feedlot-calves>

* A terrific story about set in Nebraska; resilience, doing without help, not needing government, but no ducking responsibilities, etc.

The Way-Too-Vibrant History of Illiberalism, from Skipped History (skippedhistory@substack.com) - discussion with Professor Stephen Hahn, author of *Illiberal America: A History*. <https://skippedhistory.substack.com/p/the-way-too-vibrant-history-of-american-e12>

* This is a really interesting interview by Ben Tumin with Professor Hahn. If you want to understand an important thread that has been part of our history from at least the founding of the republic, and is very much driving events of today, this is a place to start. I have not yet read the book, but I will eventually.

Are we living through the most revolutionary period in history? Fareed Zakaria says yes. But it's not just political revolution — it's economic, technological, even emotional. He doesn't offer easy solutions but he does offer some hope. From Freakonomics Radio.

<https://freakonomics.com/podcast/season-13-episode-34/>

* This is so interesting; I listened to it several times. He book is worth reading (see above).