

Introduction

The Intellectual Devotional is a collection of daily readings—in this volume, focused on the fascinating history of the United States. Like our first devotional, these readings offer regular stimulation for the mind, an escape from everyday worries, and an education in critical realms of knowledge. Each entry is a thorough treatment of the subject, easily digestible in a short sitting.

In this edition we have chosen to focus entirely on the rich history of this great country. The study of American history sheds essential light on our world today, provides useful points of reference for intelligent conversation, and will capture the imagination of anyone who simply enjoys a good story. Perhaps, most important, as we face momentous decisions about our future, never has it been more imperative for every citizen to understand this nation's challenges and triumphs since its founding.

The 365 readings that follow are divided into the following fields of knowledge:

POLITICS & LEADERSHIP

A profile of the men and women who have led the United States and its people

WAR & PEACE

A survey of the military conflicts that have defined this nation—why they were fought, how they were won or lost, and what the consequences were

RIGHTS & REFORM

A look at America's journey living up to its philosophical promise

BUSINESS

The innovators and tycoons who have fueled the engine of American industry

BUILDING AMERICA

The infrastructure that is the backbone of the nation

LITERATURE

An introduction to the great writers and their works that have shaped our national identity

ARTS

A review of quintessential American artists, from music to the visual and performance arts