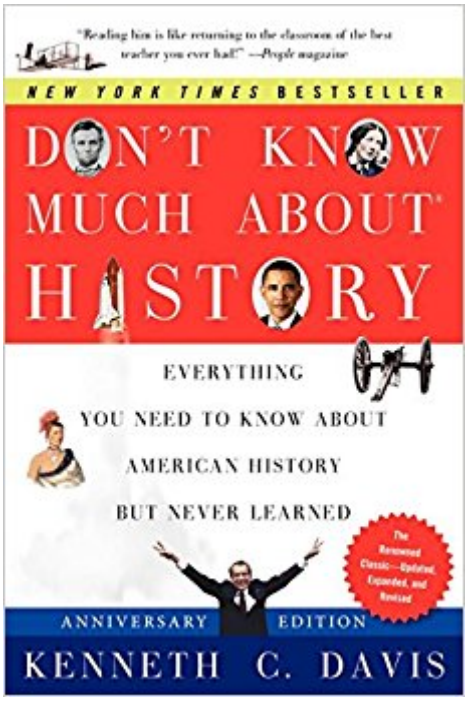
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Don't Know Much About History, Anniversary Edition: Everything You Need To Know About American History But Never Learned (Don't Know Much About Series)



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Synopsis

More than 1.6 million copies sold!Who really discovered America? What was "the shot heard ’round the world"? 9/11: What really happened? How did America elect its first black president?From the arrival of Columbus through the historic election of Barack Obama and beyond, Davis carries readers on a rollicking ride through more than five hundred years of American history. In this newly revised, expanded, and updated edition of the classic anti-textbook, he debunks, recounts, and serves up the real story behind the myths and fallacies of American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Davis, author of the trademarked series of Don’t Know Much About primers, seeks to dispel public boredom and ignorance about history and correct mistakes about various historical events in this update of his bestselling survey of American history. He arranges the book around a series of short essays on questions ranging from the basic (e.g., "Why did the southern states secede from the United States?") to the esoteric ("What was Teddy Roosevelt’s grandson doing in Iran?"), intended to crystallize larger themes in our country’s past. Davis’s engaging treatment is spicy but judicious. He notes sex scandals from Alexander Hamilton’s to Bill Clinton’s, tamps out JFK conspiracy theories and speculation about J. Edgar Hoover’s cross-dressing, and debunks myths like the legend of Betsy Ross and the movie Mississippi Burning. He provides sharply drawn, even-handed accounts of controversies, and his verdicts are generally well considered. Unfortunately, because

discussions are usually tied to colorful personalities, heroic movements and dramatic crises, processes that are quiet but profound, such as the post-war rise of suburbia and the decline of unions, tend to get slighted. There's lots of history to browse through here, but little historiography to tie it together; while the book is far superior to standard high-school treatments, and a valuable reference for students young and old, it still leaves the impression that history is just one damn thing after another. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This revised edition of a book Davis wrote 13 years ago is part of a series that includes Don't Know Much about the Civil War (1996) and Don't Know Much about Geography (1992). As in other volumes in the series, Davis strives to dispel myths and misconceptions about American history that he asserts people have learned in school. This updated version covers, chronologically, topics from the migration routes of Native Americans to the destruction of the Twin Towers. In his zeal to correct these misconceptions, Davis frequently employs a condescending and irritating tone. In truth, many of his "corrections" are unnecessary because most reasonably well-informed Americans are already aware of them. Still, if one can get past the smugness, there is considerable merit in this book, especially for laypeople. It is replete with interesting tidbits of information that can enrich one's general historical knowledge and stoke interest in further reading. Jay FreemanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Where else can you get an easy-to-read overview of 500 years of American history--from who really discovered America to how we elected our first black president--and have FUN reading it? I saw author Kenneth C. Davis interviewed on CNN and was mesmerized by what he had to say and how he said it. When they flashed his credentials on the screen as the author of this book, I bought it immediately. This isn't your high school or college history textbook. This one is so much fun you might even stay up past your bedtime reading it! Quite simply, read this book and you'll be quite literate when it comes to the big facts about our nation's past--whether you want to win at Trivial Pursuit, impress someone at a cocktail party or (most important) develop an understanding of why and how things happened THEN that deeply impact our NOW.

The book is exactly what it claims to be - a brief recap of the significant periods, events, and people of US history. None of the sections tell you the whole story, but there are some decent references

for further reading, and I found that browsing Wikipedia and a world map while reading helped me fill in some gaps. Some content gets repeated (especially in the timelines of wars, etc) and some sections are oddly short (for instance, the Tonkin Incident section doesn't actually describe what happened, although it was later discussed in a timeline), but those aren't major issues. I liked the references back and forth through history that show larger patterns, cycles, and causes, and I appreciate the sustained attention paid to systemic inequalities, especially for blacks and women, that have persisted through US history.This is my first Kindle book (I'm reading it on a mac) so maybe this is an issue of the medium, but I find the formatting pretty clunky, and the lack of photos, images, and maps is unfortunate.

Love this book. I'm about halfway through it and I can tell you that it's highly readable, entertaining and captivating. While sharing what some would think are arcane facts about our history, author Kenneth C. Davis presents the human part of our history so we get a much clearer picture of how we've arrived at this point. (NOTE: We're not always heroes in this life--we're just humans doing the best we can do at the time. This is a marvelous book and I highly recommend it!

I love history, but I didn't feel like me were always told the truth. First off who was around to tell Washington chop down the tree, how did we know it was a cherry tree. I feel like history has been misleading all my life. This book is wonderful I wish I had this book in school discussion we would had. I you are on the fence about purchasing this book, please go on you will not be disappointed.

An overall enjoyable book that presents a selective view of American history. As all authors he picks and chooses his source material and provides a meaningful exercise in detecting liberal bias however subtle. A lood read but caveat emptor if you are looking for an unbiased work.

HISTORY IS BORING RIGHT, well you could be wrong.To sit down and read all about the actions of one person or another could be boring, but Kenneth Davis has taken that same history and made it interesting. He tells the History of different subject in such a way that you shake your head and wonder just how things could happen that way.Listening to history, or the highlights of history as he presents it can cause you to shake your head and wonder just what people where thinking, or WHERE they thinking about some of the things that have happen, and how did the stories that we hear today get started.ALL of Kenneth C. Davis books are well worth the investment not only to learn the important parts of history, but to shake your head at some of the stupid people who have

been making all the history before our time

Item received on 2/25/17 by mail. a Very interesting book, who tells us more detailed pieces from the American history than you ought to learn, often with several boring facts on school.Kenneth C. Davis gives a very realistic picture of what was going good and wrong during the American history, and the influence in their concerned world.Again, the right literature that fills in the gaps of what we really didn't know.

Present for my husband. He loves it. He hardly put it down for the first week he had it.m

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