



South Georgia
History Project

The Wiregrass Telegraph

Promoting Educational Excellence in U. S. History!

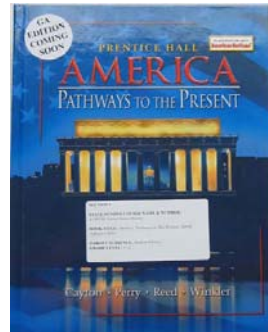
Special Edition
Textbook
Adoption

2004 Textbook Adoption

This special edition of the newsletter is sent out there to assist you teachers who are involved in textbook adoption as we speak. It's not totally inclusive or comprehensive and probably reflects some distinct bias on the part of a couple of old guys who try to cut through the red tape and extraneous junk. The other old guy I mention is Ed Flowers of Ware County who is the textbook person in the SE corner of the state and who has had occasion to see lots of books. So here goes:

1. *The Americans, 9-12 US History* by McDougal Littrell. Large, very detailed, expensive - has maps, timelines, biographies, lots of electronic and supplemental stuff. Language level is pitched at 10th grade or higher. This would be a suitable book for an AP Course or even freshman college course.

COMMENT: Good book if you're jamming facts and have a classroom full of future rocket engineers. But it's big and heavy with thin covers and probably wouldn't last more than 2 semesters with the average teenager. School boards will be very impressed and the Superintendent's book account will be quickly emptied.



2. *America - Pathways to the Present 9-12* by Prentice Hall. Most of the comments made about the previous text apply here also. This

book has almost 1300 pages and honestly, I didn't look too close to check facts. It would also be suitable for AP but seems to contain more cultural history than the McDougal textbook. It's also very current.
COMMENT: See above; same-same.

3. *The American Republic Since 1877* by Glencoe. GA edition. Medium sized, language appropriate to 10th grade. Seems to be factual, accurate and detailed. Because of its size, this book would be durable and not as expensive as those above. What we basically have here is Glencoe's 1492 forward large textbook chopped off at 1877. It does include more cultural history than the others noted.

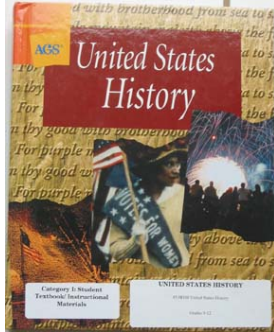
COMMENT: Would be good for a college level course 1877 - forward.



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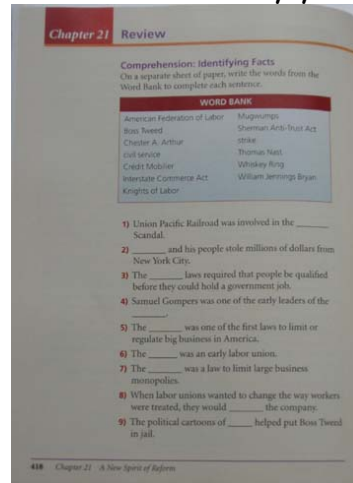
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4. *United States History 9-12* by AGS (American Guidance Services). Medium sized, with essential questions and a

timeline in each chapter. Language is 8-9th grade level with vocabulary words highlighted to assist learning. Covers are durable and book has about half as many pages as the other books reviewed. The book is also written in a thematic format as opposed to the other books reviewed, which are recitations of facts. Not spectacular but inexpensive and very user-friendly.

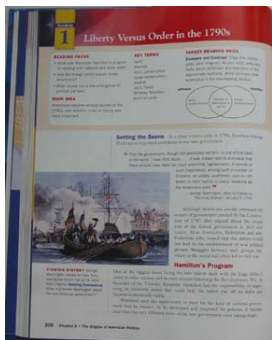
COMMENTS: Ed and I would both choose this book if we were making the call. It's a book that would serve to only guide students, not provide any possible fact one could want to know. It will survive many years of



teenagers and can be taken home without fear that it will fall apart. It would also be relatively inexpensive.

It has everything needed - vocabulary, timelines, primary documents and reviews. Its only drawback is that it's not nearly as impressive as the competition in terms of numbers of pictures and bulk.

So there you have it - obviously the old guys want books that are laid out simply, have the basics according to Max Thompson and are durable. And we don't want our taxpayer friends and neighbors to have to sustain a millage increase just to buy our history textbooks. If Ed or I can help on this, we're as close as your Email.



Prentice Hall AGS
Same chapter/time period; notice difference in simplicity of layout. Ck for essential ?s and timelines.