

Contents

<i>List of plates</i>	xi
<i>List of figures</i>	xv
<i>List of tables</i>	xvi
<i>Preface and acknowledgements</i>	xvii
<i>Chronology of significant dates in American history</i>	xviii

1 The American context	1
Ethnic culture	4
Religious culture	7
Political-legal culture	7
Economic culture	9
Americanness and national identity	10
Social and institutional change	15
American attitudes to US society	16
<i>Exercises</i>	19
<i>Further reading</i>	20
<i>Websites</i>	20
2 The country	23
Political ecology	24
Natural resources, economic development and environmental concerns	24
Climate	34
The regions: cultural geography	35
Native-American cultural regions	35
Cultural regions in the contemporary USA	40
Changing public attitudes: where do we go from here?	48

<i>Exercises</i>	50
<i>Further reading</i>	50
<i>Websites</i>	50
3 The people: settlement and immigration	53
Mother of exiles	54
'The New Colossus'	55
Early encounters between Europeans and Native Americans	55
The founders	56
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	63
A renewed immigration debate and immigration restriction	63
Wartime policies and the search for principle in immigration policy	66
The fourth wave: 1965 to the present	67
Attitudes to immigrants: the contemporary debate	70
<i>Exercises</i>	74
<i>Further reading</i>	74
<i>Websites</i>	75
4 The people: women and minorities	77
The reason for American women's and minority history	78
Women in America	78
Native Americans	85
African Americans	94
Asian Americans	100
Latinos	105
<i>Exercises</i>	109
<i>Further reading</i>	110
<i>Websites</i>	110
5 Political institutions: the federal government	113
Historical origins	114
The constitutional framework	117
The political parties	121
The legislative branch	125
The executive branch	132
The judicial branch	146
Attitudes to branches of the federal government	149
<i>Exercises</i>	150
<i>Further reading</i>	151
<i>Websites</i>	151

6	Political institutions: state and local government	153
	The place of state government in American federalism	154
	The evolution of state government and federalism in the USA	157
	The structure of state government	160
	Local government	164
	<i>Exercises</i>	169
	<i>Further reading</i>	170
	<i>Websites</i>	170
7	Foreign policy	171
	A nation apart? American attitudes to world affairs	172
	From neutrality to isolationism, 1776–1830	176
	From expansionism to imperialism, 1783–1914	177
	Isolationism and internationalism, 1914–45	180
	The Cold War era, 1946–92	183
	The sole superpower in the post-Cold War era	188
	The foreign-policy establishment debate	192
	<i>Exercises</i>	195
	<i>Further reading</i>	195
	<i>Websites</i>	196
8	The legal system	197
	Legal history	200
	The sources of US law	203
	The court system	203
	Federal and state court proceedings	208
	The legal profession	210
	Crime and punishment	213
	Attitudes to the legal system	221
	<i>Exercises</i>	222
	<i>Further reading</i>	223
	<i>Websites</i>	223
9	The economy	225
	Economic history	226
	American economic liberalism: theory and practice	231
	Social class and economic inequality	232
	The contemporary economy	234
	Industry and manufacturing	238
	Service industries	240
	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	240
	Financial and industrial institutions	242

Attitudes to the economic system	247
<i>Exercises</i>	249
<i>Further reading</i>	250
<i>Websites</i>	250
10 Social services	251
Social services history	253
The organization of contemporary social services	256
Public social services	257
The needy and the poverty line	261
Voluntary services	262
Health care	264
Housing	268
Attitudes to social services	271
<i>Exercises</i>	274
<i>Further reading</i>	275
<i>Websites</i>	275
11 Education	277
American attitudes to education: high expectations	278
American educational history	279
Elementary and secondary schools	286
Higher education	294
Recent problems and policy debates	298
<i>Exercises</i>	300
<i>Further reading</i>	301
<i>Websites</i>	301
12 The media	303
Media history	305
Freedom of the media	308
The contemporary print media	311
The contemporary broadcasting media	316
Attitudes to the media	321
<i>Exercises</i>	323
<i>Further reading</i>	324
<i>Websites</i>	324
13 Religion	325
Religious history	327
Contemporary US religion	335
Church, state and politics	339
Religion and education	342

Attitudes to religion	343
<i>Exercises</i>	345
<i>Further reading</i>	346
<i>Websites</i>	346
14 The arts, sports and leisure	347
The arts	350
Sports	360
Leisure	365
<i>Exercises</i>	369
<i>Further reading</i>	369
<i>Websites</i>	370
<i>Appendices</i>	
Declaration of Independence in Congress, July 4, 1776	371
Constitution of the United States of America and Amendments	374
<i>Index</i>	393