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What are the best AP U.S. history textbooks you can buy? Which books should you use in your course and AP exam prep? In this article we will go over the most popular APUSH textbooks as well as some books to consider if you're self-taught or budget. Read if you're looking to get your AP U.S. history textbook! 2020 AP Test Changes Due to COVID-19 Due to covid-19 coronavirus pandemics, AP tests will now be conducted remotely, and information on how it will work is still evolving. Stay up to date on test dates, AP online review and what it means to you with our AROUND COVID-19 FAQ article. Quick Note: Don't Rush to buy your APUSH Textbook College Board doesn't recommend any specific U.S. history textbooks for AP classes, but it maintains a list of sample books APUSH teachers could use. Even if your AP teacher uses a less popular textbook, unless it mainly follows the updated APUSH curriculum, it's still information you need to know. I also highly recommend getting an AP us history prep book in early spring to help you learn. This book will review everything about the test, but with less detail than a textbook that will help you remember the most important facts, dates, people and movements. Your feedback book will also help you prepare for the time periods and designs that appear in the U.S. History Test. This means that if you do self-study on an APUSH test, your class doesn't use a textbook and you want one, or you're an instructor, here are some great AP U.S. history textbooks to consider. Most Popular AP U.S. History Textbook: American Pageant, 17th Edition Amazon Price: About \$120 for hardcover, \$95 for eTextbook When I got to Stanford when AP US history came up with a conversation (an event that happened more than once because we nerds!) Everyone around me could start reminding of this textbook. It seemed as though everyone but I had read this textbook in high school! My high school didn't use it, so I didn't understand what all the fuss was about. It turns out the American Pageant is known as one of the most well-written, readable textbooks on any topic, and is a favorite among high school teachers in AP U.S. history, with by far the most buzz online. One of its main criticisms is also one of its greatest advantages: it is written more like a novel than it is a textbook, so people who prefer something simpler do not always love it. To take an example, this is what the American Pageant section introduces Christopher Columbus reads as follows: On this stage stepped christopher columbus. This skilled Italian sailor persuaded the Spanish monarchs to outfit him with three tiny but seaworthy ships, served by a popper crew. Bravely, he unfurled sail on his shell ship and headed west. His superstitious sailors, fearing venturing through the ocean known, grew increasingly rebellious. After six weeks at sea, 12.oktobi, 12.october, the crew spotted the island in the Bahamas. Thus, a new world floated in the vision of Europeans. It sounds exactly like a novel! By contrast, the simpler textbook introduction of Columbus (from Making America) reads as follows: Wanting to take advantage of new technology and knowledge, Christopher Columbus, an ambitious sailor from the Italian port city of Genoa, approached John II of Portugal in 1484 and asked him to support a voyage west of Portugal to the East Indies. The king refused when his geographers warned that Columbus was too low in distance. Undeterred, Columbus peddled his idea to various European governments over the next several years, but found no one willing to take the risk. Finally, in 1492, the defeat of Ferdinand and the Moors of Isabella gave Columbus a chance. Even though the American Pageant definitely comes off a bit flowery, it sounds smoother and memorably than this more simple textbook version. But outside of language, Pageant has all the facts and helps you make connections between different periods in U.S. history. Connecting is really useful for apush tests. The essay forces you to make connections between time periods and trends, so just knowing the basic facts about what happened and when won't help you. American Page will prepare you for explaining and analyzing these connections and trends throughout the book. (If you want a quick, simple overview of events, by the way, you can get it from the APUSH prep book later this year.) In short, it's a solid pick for any student or if you're a teacher trying to decide which textbook to use in your classroom. Best Bet on Self-Study: Making America, 7th Edition Amazon Price: About \$155 for a hardcover, \$70 for an eTextbook This was the same textbook I used in my AP U.S. history class back in high school, and I got 5 for the AP exam (read more about ap scores here). It's not as novel-esque as american pageant is, so it's less fun to read, but I still found it very readable, detailed and clear. Plus, it sometimes uses college courses on U.S. history that speak to its quality. If you're self-taught, this is a great choice because of how clear the chronology is in it. Since you will not have a teacher to explain the different periods in U.S. history and why chronology is divided as it is, the textbook that defines all this will certainly be very important in helping you understand American history. If you can gain a solid understanding of what happened when (for example, the Constitution was ratified in 1788), it will be much easier to start connecting events with a larger discussion of historical topics essay (the ratification of the Constitution ended the period of uncertainty after the Revolutionary War). Finally, I really like the summaries at the end of each chapter, as well as the discussion issues; both tools help info sink. Again, if you're this built-in review is a great feature. Best Budget Choice: Unfinished Nation, 9 Edition Amazon Price: For \$33 for an eTextbook Unfinished Nation is a solid, readable textbook for which you can buy an eTextbook version at a very reasonable price of \$30-\$35. (The hardcover version of this edition is much harder to find and can therefore get quite expensive.) Although the textbook is chronological, it also clearly emphasises social and political movements; this is really useful for APUSH essay questions that require you to make connections over larger time periods. The Unfinished Nation has a clear narrative voice, and although it's not as new as American Pageant is, it's still quite an interesting read. If you need to buy an AP textbook for yourself and are OK using an eTextbook instead of a hard copy, this is a great (and inexpensive) option to consider. Best APUSH Exam Prep: America's History, 8th Edition Amazon Price: About \$50 for a Hardcover, \$100 for an eTextbook This textbook meets the best with the recently redesigned APUSH goals from the College Board and uses most of the same chronological chapters that are really useful when you're studying for the final AP exam. As already mentioned, although the College Board lists a number of examples of APUSH textbooks that could be used in the classroom, this was written specifically for the AP's US History Course in 2015. Many of the other textbooks on the list are also used for general U.S. history courses, both at high school and college level, while other authors tend to use time period chapters that are most meaningful to them than those that meet THE AP's U.S. history course guidelines; teachers often have to close the small gap between their textbooks and the official APUSH guidelines. This edition (is the 9th edition, but the 8th edition is still the most popular) offers many historical documents, such as founding documents and Supreme Court decisions, to give you more practice through primary sources that are of great importance to the AP's U.S. history exam. In addition, American history comes with an online quiz feature that can help you prepare for the AP exam in a multiple-choice section that counts 40% of your total score. To sum up, this textbook is really a great choice if you're worried about being ready for an AP test in May (or getting students ready!). What's Next? Looking for more APUSH resources? See our top cut on AP U.S. History Review books and check out our huge collection of APUSH practice tests and free, online quizzes. Did you know that many colleges require you to perform SAT Subject Tests? Find out which colleges require or strongly recommend topic tests, after all, if you take APUSH, you might as well take the U.S. history subject test, too! Going to take the SAT/ACT? Find out when you should take SAT/ACT for the first time, and get tips on whether you should retake the SAT/ACT to try and improve Score. These recommendations are based solely on our knowledge and experience. If you purchase a product through one of our links, PrepScholar may receive commissions. Want to improve your SAT score by 160 points or your ACT score by 4 points? We have written a guide for each test on the top 5 strategies you have to use to have a shot at improving your score. Download it for free now: now:

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