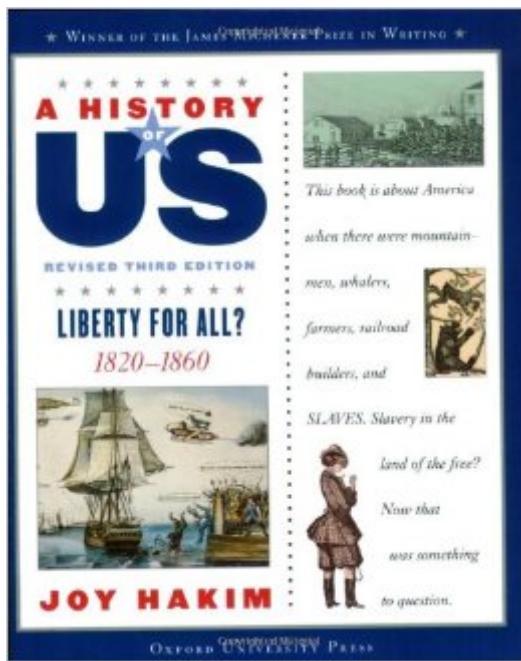


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# A History Of US: Liberty For All?: 1820-1860 A History Of US Book Five



## Synopsis

Recommended by the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy as an exemplary informational text. Early nineteenth century America could just about be summed up by Henry David Thoreau's words when he said, "Eastward I go only by force, but westward I go free." It was an exuberant time for the diverse citizens of the United States, who included a range of folk, from mountain men and railroad builders to whalers and farmers, as they pushed forward into the open frontier and all their hopes and fears are captured in *Liberty for All?* In addition to colorful accounts of the massive westward migration, the California Gold Rush, a war with Mexico, the Oregon boundary conflict, Texas and the Alamo, *Liberty for All?* takes a deep look at the issue that began to gnaw at the country's core: How, in the land where "all men are created equal," could there be slaves? **About the Series:** Master storyteller Joy Hakim has excited millions of young minds with the great drama of American history in her award-winning series *A History of US*.

Recommended by the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy as an exemplary informational text, *A History of US* weaves together exciting stories that bring American history to life. Hailed by reviewers, historians, educators, and parents for its exciting, thought-provoking narrative, the books have been recognized as a break-through tool in teaching history and critical reading skills to young people. In ten books that span from Prehistory to the 21st century, young people will never think of American history as boring again.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 880 (What's this?)

Series: *A History of US* (Book 5)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 3rd Revised ed. edition (February 5, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195327195

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Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.5 x 7.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #105,488 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #77 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Reference #30981 in Books > Reference

Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

"Liberty for All? 1820-1860" is the fifth volume in Joy Hakim's "A History of US," and focuses on the question of how slavery could exist in the land of the free. While this book clearly sets up the next volume, "War, Terrible War 1855-1865," which covers the Civil War, it also has some significant overlap with the previous volume, "The New Nation 1780-1850," which ends with the Compromise of 1850 that put off the coming war for a decade. There is not a neat and simple way of dividing up American history when covering the first half of the 19th-century, so it is not like there is an obvious solution to Hakim's problems of deciding where to end one book and begin the next. Whereas "The New Nation" looks primarily at the on going political experiment that saw the creation of parties and the peaceful transition from Federalists to Democratic-Republicans, "Liberty for All?" is more about the slavery question in the context of the young nation's expansion. The volume begins with the story of Westward expansion along the Sante Fe trail and other routes and ends with the story of the Underground Railroad. In between Hakim tells young readers about Mormons moving to Utah, Texas joining the Union, and gold being discovered in California. Opening up Japan to American trade and the Seneca Falls conference on the Rights of Women are also part of this period of American history. This volume covers a lot of different topics from this time period. "The New Nation" has a much clearer sense of structure because it follows the administrations of the first presidents, but I think you can see four significant units in this book. The first (Chapters 1-20) deals with all the myriad aspects of western expansion, from the Mississippi to the west coast and beyond to Japan. The second (Chapters 21-26) focuses on the conditions faced by women and children during this time. The third (Chapters 27-31) focuses on the impact of the transcendentalists on philosophy and literature, from Thoreau and Melville to Whitman and Dickinson (including some choice poems) as well as Aubudon and Caitlin. The final section (Chapters 32-38) is rather powerful dealing with the "Amistad" case, the Compromise of 1850, Stephen Douglas's "popular sovereignty" solution, the Dred Scott decision, and the idea that the entire issue of slavery was coming to head. These books are all richly illustrated, almost exclusively with historic paintings, etching, drawings, cartoons, and the like. The margins are crammed with mini-biographies, definitions, lines of poetry, and suggestions for places where young readers can find more information about a topic. This series has a deserved reputation among parents who are home schooling their children because not only is it very informative, but Hakim makes a concerted effort to engage her young readers. She is constantly

asking them to put themselves in the perspective of the people being written about, whether they are pioneers heading over the Rocky Mountains or slaves trying to find their way North to freedom. More importantly, Hakim has an innate ability to anticipate questions from her readers; you can count on her to explain "why" at the point where a student in class would be raising their hand to ask that very question.

I bought this series for my wife so she could better understand the history of the US and improve her English language skills in an area of intense interest for her. In the end, I pored over these books and gave my wife little time with them. Written for kids but fabulous for adults with little time. Buy the index and you can find sources if you're interested in diving a little deeper on a particular topic. I hope to keep these books for our future child(ren?) and am sure they will find them intriguing. The series lets us know how magnificent a country we really live in and how dramatic the history really is. With all the turmoil and all the diversity, how do we manage to keep it together? And, there are plenty who take umbrage at the extensive coverage of race and gender equality but they really are at the root of so many of our societal problems, historically speaking.

As a homeschool mother, I am always looking for historical resources that are not only good for providing great information but also entertaining as a read aloud. This book and series does the job. The style is easy reading and the pictures throughout keep the attention of all. The great part is that the material isn't watered down in the process. I learned so much reading this book this summer. I plan to use this book this year throughout our study of the expanding west. When we roll into the civil war era I will definitely be buying the next book in the series for that time period. I also have a 7th grader that attends traditional school and I know this will be a good resource for him as well. You won't be disappointed.

Breaking the textbook mold, "A History of US" contains none of the intimidation that comes with behemoth texts. It tells the tale of America in 10 user-friendly, small, illustrated books written in a personal tone, as if the author were a storyteller. (An 11th source book, with original documents, is also available.) Henry David Thoreau said, "Eastward I go only by force, but westward I go free." Lots of Americans agreed. The 19th century was an exuberant time in the United States and many were on the move. In this volume, titled "Liberty For All", Hakim tells of mountain men, railroad builders, whalers, gold rush hopefuls, and farmers, as well as of poets and painters. Read of westward migration, the California Gold Rush, war with Mexico, the Oregon boundary conflict, and

Texas and the Alamo. For Americans everywhere there was a gnawing question: How, in the land where "all men are created equal," could there be slaves?

This is an awesome text series. It is just the ticket for Homeschool or Regular school classrooms. I have taught for 28 years and use this with my High School US History. It has nice short, informative chapters. The school year is broken into many small texts rather than a back breaker big one...

I am a homeschooling grandmom and I am using this excellent series to teach American History to my middle schoolers this year. It is a great series and we enjoy the question and answer book series for each book.

these are well written and are very good discussion starters with middle schoolers. I am a conservative homeschool mom who doesn't mind my children reading different opinions and actually encourage them to do so. I own books 2-7 and we've enjoyed them. They are well written and interesting.

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