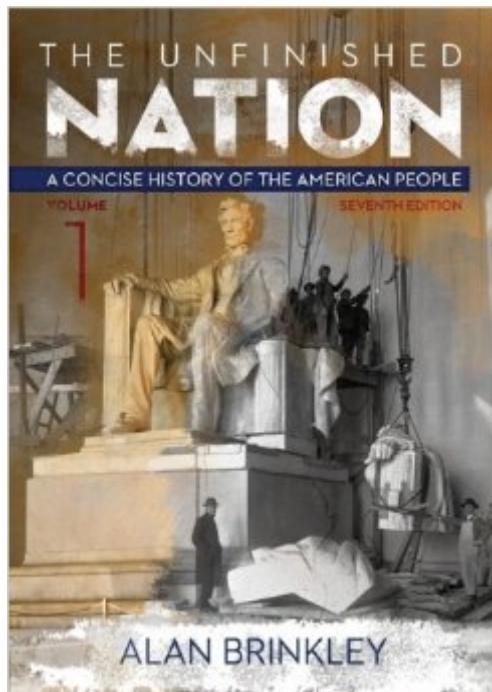


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# The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History Of The American People

## Volume 1



## **Synopsis**

Known for its clear narrative voice and impeccable scholarship, Alan Brinkley's best-selling program for the U.S. survey course invites students to think critically about the many forces that continually create the Unfinished Nation that is the United States. In a concise but wide-ranging narrative, Brinkley shows the diversity and complexity of the nation and our understanding of its history--one that continues to evolve both in the events of the present and in our reexamination of new evidence and perspectives on the past. This edition features a series of Patterns of Popular Culture essays, as well as expanded coverage of pre-Columbian America, new America in the World essays, and updated coverage of recent events and developments that demonstrates how a new generation continues to shape the American story.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People, Sixth Edition" is book on American History written by Alan Brinkley, an American historian who has taught for over twenty years at Columbia University. The title The Unfinished Nation implies the remarkable diversity of America despite the many efforts to build a single nation. Throughout history, America is constantly changing and Brinkley captures the views of historians and allows the reader to develop their own conclusions based on facts. I was required to read this book for a U.S. History class. Originally not interested in history, I found the readings actually enjoyable, easy to understand, and complete with

details of each event. Each chapter starts with a timeline stating important events mentioned in the chapter. Every timeline provides a visual understanding how each event is contextually connected and related. In addition to the timelines, multiple pictures including detailed explanations exist throughout the book. At the end of each chapter, there is a conclusion and summary with an extensive reading list containing the topics stated in that chapter. Each chapter starts a new development and complete history of America's past. This book progresses chronologically, covers the first encounters with Native Americans in the 1500's, and ends with the compromise of 1877. In the first chapter, Brinkley discusses the initial discovery of America: "The discovery of Americas did not begin with Christopher Columbus. It began many thousand years earlier, when humans first crossed into the new continents and began to people them. By the end of the fifteenth century A.D., when the first important contact with Europeans occurred, the Americas were the home of millions of men and women (Brinkley)." Brinkley goes on to explain some of the ways white Europeans viewed the Native Americans, whom they called Indians. The Native Americans experienced many changes and adversities throughout their history. Nevertheless, none is as tragic as the arrival of the Europeans. The first and probably the most negative impact of European contact is the introduction of disease. Diseases such as Chicken Pox and measles common to and non-fatal among the Europeans turned out deadly to the Native Americans. However, disease and infection was not the only cause of decimation of the Native American. Those who survived became slaves, considered savages, and deliberately killed. However, Brinkley points out that not all the European contact was negative. The Europeans introduced the Native Americans to new agriculture techniques, crops, and domestic livestock, the most positive and substantial impact being the horse. Chapter 2 discusses the cause and outcome of the American Revolution (1754-1781). The end of the French and Indian War brought more tension between Britain and America. Britain had a larger presence and strengthened its control over the Colonies. The Proclamation of 1763 also prevented settlers from expanding westward. This, along with imposed taxes to repay Britain's war debt, led to the start of the Revolutionary War. Chapter 15 is the last chapter of the book and the end of volume 1. Brinkley discusses in Chapter 15 the Reconstruction and the New South, Radical Reconstruction, and The South in Reconstruction. The Reconstruction period occurred after the Civil War between 1865 and 1877 and involved the re-integration of states of the confederacy. Brinkley explains that during his presidency during the Reconstruction period, Abraham Lincoln had plans to free more slaves and grant additional freedoms. Reconstruction freed the slaves and granted them equality. However, the freedoms granted under the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth Amendments were not entirely effective. The compromise of 1877 ended Reconstruction, bringing another restructure

of the political structure of the South. The Unfinished Nation provides a social background for the political and economic events discussed in each chapter. Brinkley clearly reveals the diversity and complexity of growing nation and the powers that enabled Americans to survive and flourish in spite of conflict and division. During the first half of the United States history, Brinkley describes the significant events that led to the foundation and evolution of the United States today. Alan Brinkley uncovers historical facts and presents them in an unbiased, yet captivating fashion.

It contains accurate info but the info it contains is so broad that it skims over most of US History--I guess a textbook is supposed to do that in a general sense, but as a professor I found it lacking and wouldn't have chosen this one for my course. I see that it comes with nice online components and is fairly modern but as a student reading it for a self-propelled style course that I took for fun I found that many of the test questions weren't even in this material and I could read it and not know about more than half of what I read. I did appreciate details that weren't in the textbooks of the 1990's like union strikes and monopoly dealings and a greater emphasis on race relations in mining and Native American dealings (more history being revealed) but over all I found the book a bit boring and strangely organized and lacking in depth.-- It jumps too fast post 1900 onward.--It seems to be cramming more history into the same length of textbook these days is their solution to the problem of more and more history being revealed, but I found it more of a problem. 2.5 stars.

The book itself is fine, HOWEVER on the page where you can order the book it says the book is available for download to PC from the kindle app. Well, I have the kindle app on my PC and I go to click on the book in my library and it tells me that this book is not available for Kindle on Windows 8. Either fix this problem or don't advertise false information. If someone has any information on how I can get into touch with or whomever directly please let me know,

My 19 year old son loves history and had to purchase this for his first history class in college. When I asked if he wanted to resell it he said no because it was an interesting read! He said the book was way better than the history class because the teacher didn't know half about what she was trying to teach (her specialty and passion was another time and place - so why was she teaching US History to 1865?) and no one else in the class liked history - it was just something they did to jump through a hoop in their education. It got to the point where the teacher would ask a question and he was the only one who would raise his hand. Then the teacher would say - does anyone know besides "....". Now if my son could only find a career connected to history - using his knowledge other than

teaching (which he is NOT interested in)

Ordered this for my upcoming semester in College. It's a rental, so I was expecting a lower quality book, but it is so nice! No crumpled pages are torn pages! I love that you don't have to spend so much for a book you may only use for a semester! Thank you for helping a struggling College student! Haha!

RentU screwed me over, they sent the book in bad condition to begin with ( the cover was coming off) then after I returned the book in the same condition I received it it!!!, they would not accept the return and charged me full price for the book. What more is there to say STAY AWAY FROM RentU USE OTHER reputable renters. TOTALLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THEM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I bought this for myself, not for a class, because I wanted something comprehensive. I was prepared to sacrifice readability if necessary. But this is beautifully written, even-handed (as far as I can tell), intelligent without requiring a lot of prior knowledge, and mercifully lacking in that *Ã¢â€œwelcome to my suffocating, hermetically sealed moral universeÃ¢â€œ* flavor that a lot of textbooks used to have. The price may not be conducive to casual reading, ditto the layout (though I got used to it pretty quickly), but if those are not deal-breakers, I heartily recommend this book.

The top review says it all, the information in this book is completely broad, I had to googled a lot of the information I needed for tests and whatnot in my class, due to the fact that there was absolutely zero mention or explanation of it in the book

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