

A HISTORY
OF THE
AMERICAN
PEOPLE

Paul Johnson

'Be not afraid of greatness'

Shakespeare, Twelfth Night, II, v



HarperCollins Publishers

459. Paul Johnson
A History of the American People
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p 872 - LBJ's sexual habits
1940 Source Notes
85 pages

Concept of dueling

Well that was another thing he was
wrong about wasn't it? p 526

Cottons - made civil war
inevitable p 307

Harding's administration (p 708)
a strong and in many
ways successful

Past Brown - who turned out to be one of the worst Governors
in California's history p. 887

"one of the most remarkable group of men in history" p127
WASH / Jeff / Adams / Ham / Frank /

Her Majesty's Custom Service p133 (Papacious)

Jefferson - did not believe in God existed - "God gave us life" p146
"Raises a lot of difficulties for a historian" p.241

What is "a city on a hill"

(870) Two greatest statements of 20th Century F.E. and Churchill

Grant - a political and administrative booby (548)

Roosevelt - more important than any other man from Lincoln to T.R. (555)

United States was the first to introduce voting Democracy (594)

What about Bigness? p604

Karl Popper's "law of unintended effect"

Vietnam (p. 881) America should have occupied the North

Media p895/96 - 1970's - repository of honor

Nixon - mistaken to resign p905

You call it a media putsch

Anti no man p43

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THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Indians - as they were p 384 - Levy

Parallels - Salem witch trial (Cotton Mather)
Red Scare 1919
McCarty's hunt for communists 1950's
Watergate hysteria
Irangate 1980's

"America's leading philosopher", Thomas Dewey p 463

First Great Awakening - sounded death knell of
British Colonialism

Second Great Awakening - religious passion

Calhoun - probably the ablest public man
ever produced p 314 Fire-baller

BOOKNOTES
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THOMAS JEFFERSON--...did not believe God existed.

Summary View of Rights of British America "The God who gave us life gave ^{us liberty} ~~us~~ life at the same time."

He was a deist, possibly even a skeptic.

No one did more to create the United States of America.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN--...agonizing efforts of Abraham Lincoln to rationalize God's purpose. Those close to him agreed he had no religious beliefs in the conventional sense. (p. 440) Herndon said--Lincoln insisted no personal God existed.

He was the greatest coiner of one-lines in American history until Ronald Reagan emerged to cap him.

HAMILTON was a genius--the only one of the Founding Fathers fully entitled to that accolade--and he had the elusive, indefinable characteristics of genius.

A hater of democracy

Page 919--Reagan and Thatcher

Harriet Beecher Stowe--...It was widely believed that Mrs. Stowe was responsible for Lincoln's election and for the chain of events which led to the bombardment of Ft. Sumter

33 of 55 delegates to C.C. were college graduates

Coke learned to treat itself and its customers--that is the entire nation--as a church and above all a Congregational church, run by the pew-folk.

That the United States lifted by an extraordinary combination of self-created wealth and native talent, became a great cultural nation in the second half of the 19th century is a fact the world and even Americans themselves have been slow to grasp.

Erie Canal
Railroad
Pony Express
Telegraph

If success in any one field has made America the world's greatest nation, it is transport and communication.

Religion would have swept away slavery in America without difficulty early in the 19th century but for one thing: cotton--made the Civil War inevitable

The central paradox of the 1920's --probably the most enjoyable decade in American History.

JAMES BUCHANAN--... Was at heart a weak man. (p. 431)

FRANKLIN PIERCE-- ... Nathaniel Hawthorn had to conceal two things: Pierce's drinking--it was said he drank more than Daniel Webster and he was certainly often drunk. (P. 425)

JAMES POLK--... It is curious that he was despised in his lifetime and under-rated by historians. Within his self-set limits he has a claim to be considered one of the most successful presidents. (p. 377)

... He was sour, stiff, elderly-looking man with a sad unsmiling face who did nothing but work.

Those who believe present-day American politics are becoming a dirty game cannot have read the history of the 1828 election.

Jackson

HENRY CLAY--... He was slender, graceful but ugly (p. 321)

JOHN CALHOUN--... He was probably the ablest public man America ever produced and it is not surprising that there were late rumors that he was the real father of Abraham Lincoln.

WARREN HARDING's administration was a strong and in some ways a successful one. Harding was the kind of president American people of all classes love--kind, genial, decent, ordinary, human, one of them. (p. 710)

... Harding was decent, small town America in person: Handsome, genial, friendly to all, but quite dignified to carry off the presidential role.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT--...extraordinary choice for TR--proof of the contention that great men should not be allowed to pick their successors. He was by nature sedentary and judicial.

BENJAMIN HARRISON--...harmless and probably honest

GROVER CLEVELAND--...best president between Lincoln and TR, a man of character and conviction and probity.

CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR--...was a thoroughly disreputable character

ULYSSES S. GRANT--...a political and administrative booby.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON--- The large, unrestrained, earthy animal, had a voracious sexual appetite, no more discriminatory than Kennedy's but less interesting. (p. 872)

GERALD FORD---...had to take over in the debris of a media putsch which had reversed the democratic verdict of a Nixon landslide.

(Carter was against Ford the weakest incumbent in history and became a still weaker one)

JIMMY CARTER--...a scruffy person at the best of times (p. 926)

RONALD REAGAN--...was his most decisive and masterful in his adoption of SDI (p. 927)

greatness

LYNDON B. JOHNSON He was unscrupulous--~~greatest~~ of heart was LBJ's redeeming, ~~??~~ salient characteristic
indeed

JOHN F. KENNEDY--...was never fit to hold any important public office and the list of lies told about his body by the Kennedy camp over many years is formidable. (p. 849)

JOE KENNEDY--...It also meant grabbing opportunities, including criminal ones, as they arose.

This was a crooked election

Insofar as Kennedy was a respectable, useful and valuable president, it was mainly Jackie's doing.

(**Pat Brown**--who turned out to be one of the worst governors in California's history)

GEORGE BUSH--- He was curiously inarticulate for a well educated man, used words clumsily (unlike Reagan whose verbal touch was always sure). (p. 933)

BILL CLINTON--...a lackluster Democratic candidate. He was in trouble both for past misdemeanors as Gov. of Arkansas and for present malfeasance and abuse of power as chief magistrate.

Tall Buildings

Art

Music

Coca-Cola

Steel

Hollywood

High Tariffs

Prohibition

Big business/robber barons (1865-1920)

Slavery

Andrew Carnegie

J. Pierpoint Morgan

John D. Rockefeller

Edward Henry Harriman

Vietnam was not only the longest but one of the most important wars in American history.

Panic of 1857 / 1873 / 1883 / 1893

The historian is driven to the conclusion that, for the great majority of American women, voting came low in their order of priorities.