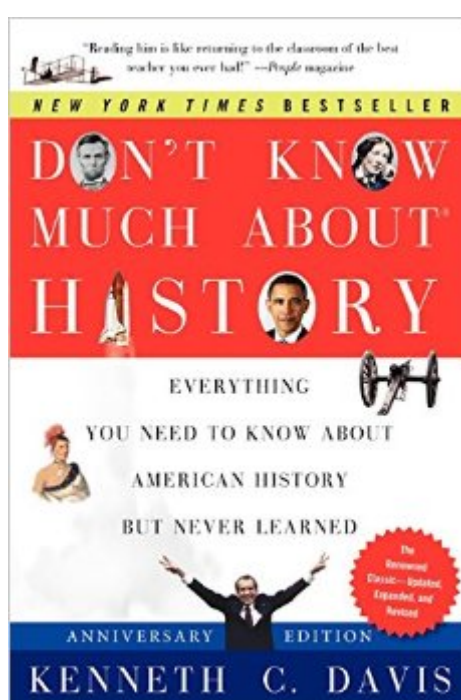


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Don't Know Much About History, Anniversary Edition: Everything You Need To Know About American History But Never Learned (Don't Know Much About Series)



Synopsis

More than 1.6 million copies sold! Who really discovered America? What was "the shot heard 'round the world"? 9/11: What really happened? How did America elect its first black president? From the arrival of Columbus through the historic election of Barack Obama and beyond, Davis carries readers on a rollicking ride through more than five hundred years of American history. In this newly revised, expanded, and updated edition of the classic anti-textbook, he debunks, recounts, and serves up the real story behind the myths and fallacies of American history.

Book Information

Series: Don't Know Much About Series

Paperback: 752 pages

Publisher: Harper Paperbacks; Anv Rep edition (May 8, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061960543

ISBN-13: 978-0061960543

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (319 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #37,846 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Science & Math >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Like a great baker, a great writer can turn even what might have been stale into something not just digestible, but delicious. Clever turns of phrase and crisp, engaging writing style (in an easily referenced question and answer format) allow historian Kenneth Davis to chart American history and debunk many of its myths in this exceptional update of his 1990 best-seller. Drawing on reports of the period and on revisionist histories, Davis concisely shows the humanity in American icons known only by one name: Lincoln's views on race relations, Washington's at times bawdy sense of humor, Franklin Roosevelt's thirst for power and gift for political (and apparently, personal) compromise, Ford and Lindbergh's disquieting bigotry and animosity. (Robert E. Lee's quote on slavery's positive effects show him, despite honors afforded him in the Civil War's losing cause, very much a man of his time.) Davis also provides short biographies of historic's outstanding black

voices, from Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois' passion to the Muhammad Ali's athletic urban poetry. Davis also shows a refreshing desire not to be objective, a rarity in books like this. He attacks the nation's great shames (treatment of Native and African Americans, Japanese-American internment during World War II), targeting history's cynics and opportunists whose names still ring of American royalty: Vanderbilt, JP Morgan, Rockefeller, even the Kennedys. (Davis' coverage of the reasons and results of 1898's Spanish-American War will disturb those always thinking Americans fought defensively and for the right causes.) Davis also explains the interlocking events which started WWI, which (should you choose to read the book cover to cover) pour into every other tragic conflict which followed up to and including September 11.

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