

2006
California 8th Grade
U.S. HISTORY
 Textbook Rating

California approved these 8th Grade U.S. History textbooks for local adoption.

FAIR *The American Journey to WWI* (Glencoe, 2006)

- Contradicts itself on the meaning of the Constitution's supremacy clause
- Defines strict and loose construction correctly
- Confuses constitutional states' rights with unconstitutional state sovereignty in most instances
- Enumerates 10 of 13 free-market factors in the Commercial/Industrial Revolutions
- Omits pro-free enterprise answers to critics of late-1800s big business behaviors
- Mentions only 2 of 11 rights of Englishmen violated by Acts of Parliament (1763-75)
- Discusses 6 of 11 ways that colonial religion encouraged the American Revolution

POOR *United States History – Independence to 1914* (Holt, 2006)

- Advocates federal supremacy instead of federalism
- Marginalizes strict construction by wrongly defining it
- Fails to distinguish constitutional states' rights from unconstitutional state sovereignty
- Describes 8 of 13 free-market principles that fostered the Industrial Revolution
- Criticizes late-19th century big businessmen in 31 student text lines, defends them in 3
- Covers 3 of 11 rights of Englishmen abridged by Acts of Parliament (1763-75)
- Mentions 4 of 11 influences of colonial religion on the American Revolution

VERY POOR *Creating America: A History of the U.S. – Beginnings through WWI* (McDougal, 2006)

- Misconstrues the Constitution's supremacy clause
- Misrepresents strict and loose construction
- Confounds constitutional states' rights with unconstitutional state sovereignty
- Acknowledges 4 of 13 free-market causes of the U.S. Industrial Revolution
- Bans counterargument to its calling Rockefeller a "robber baron"
- Names 4 of 11 rights of Englishmen infringed on by Acts of Parliament (1763-75)
- Notes 5 of 11 characteristics of colonial religion favoring the American Revolution

WORSE *America: History of Our Nation – Independence through 1914* (Prentice, 2006)

- Mistakes constitutional supremacy for federal supremacy
- Errs in defining strict and loose construction
- Discredits constitutional states' rights by equating them with unconstitutional state sovereignty
- Addresses 5 of 13 free-market elements in the Commercial/Industrial Revolutions
- Censors exculpatory info on capitalist activity in the 1800s
- Identifies just 2 of 11 rights of Englishmen denied by Acts of Parliament (1763-75)
- Cites a mere 2 of 11 contributions of colonial religion to the American Revolution

WORST *A History of US vols. 3-8* (Oxford, 2005)

- Unthinkable – *At least 50% more factual errors than any other book here:* Scholarship is suspect.
- Unsuitable – *Standard U.S. History topics shortchanged:* Biographical approach fails as a survey.
- Unfixable – *19 separate bindings:* Competitors' Teacher Edition wraparounds are better.

We can e-mail **full, fast, free documentation** for this ranking, plus our list of these books' **427 FACTUAL ERRORS** missed by editors and California's approval process. Publishers tout *teaching aides*. We stress *subject matter content*. Publishers tell you their *strengths*. We include their *weaknesses*.

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