

2003
5th Grade
SOCIAL STUDIES

Textbook Rating

Texas has approved these 5th Grade Social Studies books for 2003 local adoption, which we rank as follows:

BEST *Harcourt Horizons: U.S. History* (Harcourt, 2003)

- Clearly superior coverage of the causes of the American Revolution
- Excels in discussing American constitutional history and issues
- Conforms to state law on free enterprise as well as Macmillan and better than Scott
- Most positive treatment of multicultural topics

BETTER *The United States* (Scott, 2003)

FAIR *Our Nation* (Macmillan, 2003)

Our reviewer served on the Texas State Board of Education-appointed Social Studies Review Committee during the 1996 Social Studies curriculum writing process. His brief comparison charts show how these books' *subject matter content* differs on key topics. We can e-mail you those analyses, contrasting these texts' treatment of the American Revolution, constitutional history, principles and benefits of free enterprise, multiculturalism, religion, and character trait development. This info supplements Texas' State Textbook Review Panel, which checked conformity to the state standards; and balances publishers' sales pitches, which stress teaching aids.

No public school publisher funded our reviews in any way. We have no financial stake in any textbook company. Unlike publisher sales reps, we have no monetary interest in any textbook adoption outcome. Our support comes from concerned individuals and a few small foundations, which to our knowledge have no ties to the public school textbook industry. We are the Texas group noted by the *Wall Street Journal* and *ABC Good Morning America* for finding hundreds of high school U.S. History textbook factual errors in 1991-92; and by *ABC 20/20* in 1999 for finding hundreds of high school World History textbook factual errors.

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