Problems and Directed Readings II: Nineteenth-Century America


The following reading list is divided into twenty-four sections to parallel the introductory course. The list is meant to work on three levels: a specialist in the 19th century should have a working familiarity with the entire list; someone studying for his/her examination should have read several books from each section; and faculty members teaching the recent American introductory course will generally assign books from this list. The list should not be assumed to represent a comprehensive bibliography of historiography on the Middle Period, and in most cases, supplemental bibliographies will be available when the course is taught. But the list should provide some structure when studying for qualifying examinations. Students should also be familiar with a basic textbook in American history; for example, Jeanne Boydston, et al., Making a Nation or Christopher Clark, et al., Who Built America.

1. The New Nation

Catherine Allgor, Parlor Politics; In Which the Ladies of Washington Help Build a City and a Government (2000).


2. Market Revolution


299-338. Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28198504%2990%3A2%3C299%HOMFI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-A


3. **Slavery and the South**


James Oakes, Slavery and Freedom, an Interpretation of the Old South (1990).

Nell Painter, "Soul Murder and Slavery: Toward a Fully-Loaded Cost Accounting," in


4. Gender, Sexuality, Family


Jan Lewis, "Politics and the Ambivalence of the Private Sphere: Women in Early

E. Anthony Rotundo, "Romantic Friendship: Male Intimacy and Middle-Class Youth in the Northern United States, 1800-1900," *Journal of Social History*, 23 (Fall 1989), 1-25


5. **Religion and Reform**


Thomas Bender, ed., *The Anti-Slavery Debate: Capitalism and Abolitionism as a Problem in Historical Interpretation* (1992)--the 1985 AHR debate between Thomas Haskell and David Brion Davis.


Christine Heyerman, *Southern Cross*

Donald Mathews, *Religion in the Old South* (1977)


6 **Expansion, Removal, and the American West**


7. **American Foreign Relations**


Nancy Hewitt’s *Southern Discomfort*


Amy Kaplan, and Donald Pease, eds., *Cultures of United States Imperialism* (1993)


8. **The Coming of the Civil War—Politics at Mid-Century**


Don E. Fehrenbacher, *Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850s* (1962)


Harry Jaffa, *Crisis of the House Divided: an Interpretation of the Issues in the Lincoln-
Douglas Debates (1972, 1983)


9. **War**


10. **Reconstruction (and after)**


Joel Williamson, *After Slavery* (1965)

11. **Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the Gilded Age**


12. **Politics and the State**


Barbara Welke, *Recasting American Liberty: Gender, Race, Law and the American Railroad Revolu*

13. **Intellectual/ Culture**


Culture, 1890-1920 (1993)


Lawrence W. Levine, Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro- American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom (1977).

Lawrence Levine, Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America (1991)


James Livingston, Pragmatism and the Political Economy of Cultural Revolution, 1850-1940 (1994)


Morton White, Social Thought in America: the Revolt Against Formalism (1976)

Alan Trachtenberg, The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age (1982).

14. Labor and Industry


"A Round Table: Labor, Historical Pessimism, and Hegemony," *JAH*, 75 (June 1988). 137-161 Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021-8723%28198806%2975%3A1%3C135%3ATNLHAT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-A


15. **Science, Technology and the Environment**


CLASSICS

The following list includes some of the most important works that have understandings of
the history of the United States in the nineteenth century. You should be familiar with the material in most of these books.


John Higham, *Strangers in the Land* (1955)


Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (2 vols., 1835, 1840). (All students should be familiar with this classic work.)


