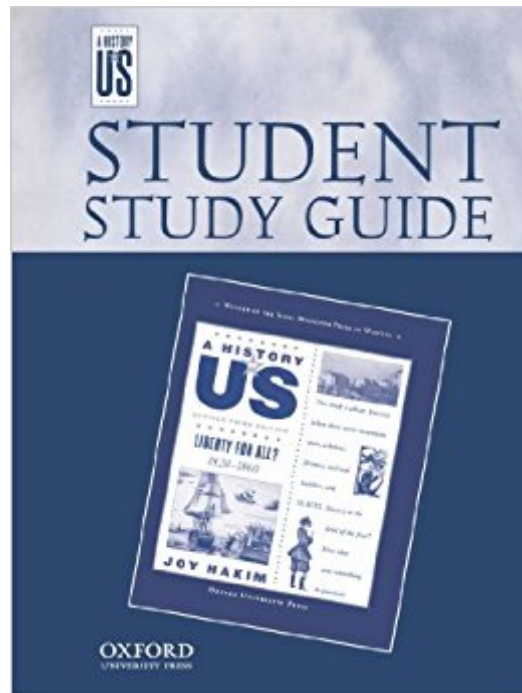




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A History Of US: Student's Guide, Liberty For All? (A History Of Us)



Synopsis

Developed to complement the Middle/High School teaching guide, this student study guide was created as reproducible support for extension and self-directed study of *A History of US: Liberty for All*. Every chapter is covered by a lesson, which includes activities to reinforce the following areas: access, vocabulary, map skills, comprehension, critical thinking, working with primary sources and further writing. The student study guide contains reproducible maps and explanations of graphic organizers, as well as suggestions on how to do research and special projects.

About the Series: Master storyteller Joy Hakim has excited millions of young minds with the great drama of American history in her award-winning series *A History of US*. Recommended by the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy as an exemplary informational text, *A History of US* weaves together exciting stories that bring American history to life. Hailed by reviewers, historians, educators, and parents for its exciting, thought-provoking narrative, the books have been recognized as a break-through tool in teaching history and critical reading skills to young people. In ten books that span from Prehistory to the 21st century, young people will never think of American history as boring again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[An] exciting series... Ms. Hakim braids multiple narratives together to bring alive material long dead to children's imaginations."--The New York Times Book Review

Joy Hakim didn't rewrite history. But she did make it a whole lot more fun to read."--Education Week

Readers young and old will find themselves amused, amazed, and engrossed by this searching, opinionated survey. In every sense a fresh look at our history." --Kirkus Reviews

Merits every accolade, starting with the

most personal: I couldn't put it down."--Washington Post Book World"The liveliest, most realistic, most well-received American history series ever written for children."--Los Angeles Times"A thorough and accurate narrative of our nation's history."--The Philadelphia Inquirer"I think this is the best American history written for young people that I have ever seen."--David Herbert Donald, Harvard University; Pulitzer prize-winning author of Lincoln"When master storyteller Joy Hakim wields her pen, you're in for a breathtaking adventure."--Teaching K-8"An attention to detail and drama alike make these recommended choices for not only readers ages 8-13 but for entire families."--Children's Bookwatch"Absorbing, real and even fun to read."--Voice of Youth Advocates"Books of real substance that speak directly to kids."--Jean Fritz, author of Shhh, We're Writing the Constitution"One of the best nonfiction series of the decade. Impossible to put down."--School Library Journal

Joy Hakim has done the impossible. She has students all over the country reading American history... for fun! When she writes about our country's past, she makes it an exciting and suspenseful adventure because she tells stories--great stories--from factual history. The dates and events, characters and complexities, heroes, heroines, and villains are woven into the great drama of American history, and students are reading and responding with enthusiasm. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A year ago, on the recommendation of others, I invested in this eleven-volume set. Over the course of the past year, my ten-year-old son and I have read through the entire series together. What a remarkable adventure of discovery, for both of us. The benefits my son has gained from this exposure to the people and principles that have made up our country's history are impressive. (We homeschool, so this was his first in-depth exposure to the whole survey of American history.) In addition to having a broad sweep of the contours of history, he also has come to appreciate many of the core values that our country was founded upon. All I need to do is to say "We hold these truths to be self-evident," and he chimes in with the next several lines from the Declaration of Independence. He has gained an appreciation of the Constitution and Bill of Rights (and knows which powers of government belong to which governmental branches). He can recognize, and quote portions of, the Gettysburg Address. He has learned about people like Patrick Henry, Sojourner Truth, John F. Kennedy, and a multitude of others who have stood up for human liberty and dignity. Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King became three of his heroes. He has come to appreciate the rich history our country has -- and how we have never yet, in

all our history, truly lived up to the values that we aspire to, and how that process needs to be ongoing. Along the journey, we have been inspired to do more learning. We took a trip to Virginia and visited Monticello, the fascinating home of Thomas Jefferson. We watched the movie "1776" and talked about the differences between the movie and what actually happened. We explored catacombs of a church that was a station on the Underground Railroad. We took three trips to Antietam, exploring together what it might have felt like to be there in the midst of that climactic battle. We watched an online video of MLK giving his "I Have a Dream Speech," and during a recent trip to Washington, we noticed the spot at the Lincoln Memorial where he stood and where, engraved in the marble, you can see a commemoration of that event. We visited the World War II memorial and remembered Pearl Harbor. We stared at the names engraved on the Vietnam War Memorial and talked about a friend of ours who escaped, with her family, from Vietnam during the boat lift. We read about more recent events -- events that I remember -- including the Iran hostage crisis, the explosion of the Challenger, the advent of the personal computer, the signing of the INF, the end of the cold war, the 2000 election, and others -- and incorporated my memories into the story that was unfolding in the pages we were reading. In short, this series of books helped history to come to life in our family. My son has come to claim his identity as a citizen of a country that stands for certain values and that has a long ways to go to fully attaining those values. And then, there's what this series did for me. I went through public school. I memorized all sorts of basic facts about history. I had one really amazing high school teacher who helped me to understand and appreciate the significance of contemporary world events (right during the time when communism was collapsing). I had some great history courses while in college. But somehow -- even with all of that -- I realized, as I read through this series (designed for young readers!), that there was an awful lot I didn't know. I didn't know about Las Casas. I hadn't thought about the paradox that it was slave-holding Virginians who thought and wrote most about freedom. I didn't know much about the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, or the Alien and Sedition Acts. I had never heard of Red Jacket. I had never understood the significance of the debates between Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, and Daniel Webster. I had never heard of the Amistad. I didn't know beans about Congressional Reconstruction. I had never heard of the amazing story behind Yick Wo vs. Hopkins. I didn't know, or didn't care, about the Muckrakers. And as my son and I moved into the twentieth century -- as we moved into territory that was more familiar to me -- I found myself appreciating this history in a way I never had before. I found myself constantly imagining, "What would it have been like to have lived in those times?" I was constantly marveling at the bravery and courage of people, in the past, who stood up for what was good and true and right, and at what that sometimes cost

them. In short, I was inspired. And I wept. Volume 10 (1945-2001) is worth reading all by itself. I dare you to read it and not be moved. If you're looking for a good resource for children and youth to explore history and have it come to life, this is for you. If you're an adult and want to appreciate our history all over again -- and in a whole new light -- step into the pages of these books. Some reviewers suggest that the series is too biased to be useful. Is it biased? Yes, absolutely. Hakim makes her bias quite evident: she believes that our nation was founded on certain principles, and that time and again we have failed to live up to them. Does the presence of this bias hurt the series? I say, "No." On the contrary, I think it enhances the series. The way she constantly reminds the reader of the founding documents of this country -- and other documents that stand in that tradition -- constantly make the reader ask: "Are we really living up to our country's potential?" Most of the time, the answer is no, not by a long shot. Are there problems here and there? Sure. There were times when things were vague and I had to do a bit of extra explaining. There were times when Hakim would introduce technical terms without explaining what they mean. There were times when the significance of a particular event was unclear. There were times when portions of history are brushed away (her discussion of the Revolutionary War, for example, focuses much more on social realities than on military battles; and the Articles of Confederation are skipped over pretty quickly). Is any of this problematic? Well, I'm of the opinion that one has to start somewhere. My son will keep learning and growing throughout his life (and so will I!). He'll learn about stuff that didn't make it into these pages. He'll discover that other people have different opinions than Hakim does. He may come to question some of her conclusions. But does he now have a good understanding of the broad outlines of American history? Of course. Does he understand why our country was created and what a number of major historical figures think our country stands for? Yes, absolutely. Does he understand how our government works (including judicial process)? Yes, to a remarkable degree. Is he now totally hooked on history? You bet. Was it worth it? Absolutely. Was it fun and rewarding for both of us? Without question. The question I am left with, at the end of this year-long adventure, is this: where can I find a history of the world that is filled with as much passion, as many pictures, as many quotations, as many stories of the lives of ordinary people, and as accessible to young readers, as this series is?

Well honestly I am a bit embarrassed that it took me so long to figure out that there were study guides that went along with the books. I like the study guides because I have two different ages that I am reading the books with (12 & 8), and there are so many different activities I can choose more age appropriate ones for my younger son and tailor it to our needs.

Joy Hakim clearly understands the subject, and the mind of her audience. In History of US, Joy Hakim skillfully assembles the most relevant parts of history, and presents them in a manner that is both enlightening and entertaining. History of Us is more than the tired recall of wars and dates; it explores the world and minds of people, and provokes questions and interpretations. Well researched, it provides a thoughtfully balanced view of complicated situations, such as the impact of Europeans on the Native Americans, religious expression and intolerance, economics and immigration, and a whole lot more. We used this award winning series as our curriculum guide for a year-long history field trip around the country, and an essential reference for our own website. Both of our kids, 10 and 8, could easily follow the flow of history, and understand the lessons that were presented. Comprehensive, without being exhausting, this is a great work.

These books are beautifully illustrated with lots of primary sources and the text is well written as well as thorough and can be easily read!

I have read the whole books of this series. The whole books consist of approximately 1850 pages not including table of contents and appendixes. Very few authors managed to write history book without putting the reader to sleep. Joy Hakim is one of the few. The author explained the history of the United States by telling stories. From the first Native Americans who crossed the Bering Sea a few thousands years ago to 2000 Presidential Election Fiasco. The book emphasized on the civil right issue, which is justice and equal right for all Americans, regardless of the race. Overall, this is a very good and entertaining book on the history of the United States. However, the author judgemental opinion on some of the political figures may trouble some. It didn't trouble me since I am a liberal and so does the author, but if you are a conservative you may not like to read this book.

I bought the books to homeschool my elementary aged kids. I have found them indispensable in so many ways. Ms. Hakim covers enough of nearly every part of our history to satisfy or engage curiosity for further study. The contents are easy to read & comprehend for all ages. The pages are laid out well & have an unbiased approach to many subjects that have sparked controversy throughout our U.S. history. Volume 11 is also a must for the set! Love 'em!

I used these books to teach my sons American History. They are very flexible to use and keep children and adults engaged. They are full of great pictures and lots of interesting sidenotes.

Written in a format that appeals to any reader, as in, a conversational tone, definitely improves their readability. The layout of pictures, photos, tidbits of information, etc. prevent the child from groaning at yet more blocks of text at each turn of the page. The author is fairly opinionated, making bold statements that could cause the reader to think her word is final on any given subject in the books. I'd still recommend them for middle grades. At that age, anything that stimulates some sort of interest in history is miraculous! Thankfully more factual, less opinionated history books are read in High school, even if they are as boring as heck.

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