










**GETTING STARTED.** Here is a guided tour through the reference collection.

**GENERAL SOURCES.** Start with a general source. These are history encyclopedias, dictionaries and handbooks. Check for articles about your topic and start making notes of names, places, dates, and titles listed in any bibliographies.















o Almanac of American history. 	REF 973.02 ALM
o American Heritage encyclopedia of American history.	REF 973.03 AME
o American years: a chronology. 	REF 973.02 GRO
o Encyclopedia of American facts and dates. 	REF 973.02 CAR
o Encyclopedia of American history. 7th ed. 	REF 973 ENC
o Famous First Facts. 5th ed. 	REF 031.92 KAN
o Webster's guide to American history.	REF 973 WEB
o Album of American history. 	REF 973 ALB
o Chronicle of America. 	REF 973 CHR
o *Dictionary of American history. 3rd ed. 10 vols. (Vol. 9 documents)	REF 973.03 DIC
o Encyclopedia of American social history. 3 vols. 	REF 301.0973 ENC
o Encyclopedia of American studies. 4 vols.	REF 973.03 ENC
o Encyclopedia of North American history. 11 vols. 	REF 970 ENC
o *Great events from history. North American series. 4 vols.	REF 970 GRE
o Growth of the American republic. Vol. 1: Discovery to the Civil War	REF 973 MOR
o Growth of the American republic. Vol. 2: Reconstruction to the Present	REF 973 MOR
o Oxford Companion to United States history.	REF 973.03 OXF
o Reader's companion to American history.	REF 973 REA
o *Record of America.	REF 973.03 McC
o Taking sides: vol. 1: The Colonial period to Reconstruction.	REF 973 TAK
o Taking sides: vol. 2: Reconstruction to the present.	REF 973 TAK

**MORE SOURCES:** These are more titles that are useful, but they cover a wide range of topics. Skim through the titles and check ones that sound useful. Think in broad terms: the media pervades awareness...if it had significant impact, the media probably reported it. Revolutions and other social unrest often involves intelligence and espionage. Rebels and renegades often start upheavals and social changes. Violence often crops up during times of change. Social

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 =includes **chronologies or timelines** \* =Book is a **basic source**

movements move societies and change history. Everyone tries to put a spin on history with propaganda. Places where history happened evolve into National Parks and Historic Sites.

o ABC-CLIO companion to the environmental movement.  	REF 363.7 GRO
o ABC-CLIO companion to the media in America.  	REF 302.23 HOL
o Encyclopedia of American intelligence and espionage: from the revolution to the present. 	REF 327.12 OTO
o Encyclopedia of American National Parks. 2 vols.	REF 973 ROT
o Encyclopedia of American scandal. 	REF 973 KOH
o Encyclopedia of propaganda. 3 vols. 	REF 303.3 ENC
o International dictionary of historic places. Vol. 1. Americas.	REF 973 INT
o Rebels and renegades: a chronology of social and political dissent in the United States.  	REF 303.484 HAM
o Value of a Dollar: prices and incomes in the United States, 1860-2004. 3rd ed. 	REF 339.42 VAL
o Violence in America. 3 vols.  	REF 303.6 VIO
o *Encyclopedia of American Social Movements.  	REF 303.48 ENC

### PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS

You say you need primary source documents? These are all reference titles that include documents from all periods of American history. Many other books includes source documents, but these titles are collections of source documents.

o 100 key documents in American democracy.	REF 973 ONE
o American history 1600 to the present: Source readings	REF 973 AME
o American history vol. 1 From colonial America to the age of the Civil War. (Perspectives on history)	REF 973 AME
o American history vol. 2 From Reconstruction and the Gilded Age to postwar America. (Perspectives on history)	REF 973 AME
o Annals of America. 22 vols.	REF 973 ANN

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o Democracy reader.	REF 323.44 DEM
o Documents of American history.	REF 973 COM
o Founding the republic: a documentary history.	REF 973.3 FOU
o Great debates in American history. 3 vols.	REF 973 GRE
o The boisterous sea of liberty: a documentary history of America from discovery through the Civil War.	REF 973 BOI
o The ground on which we stand.	REF 973 KAY
o Witness to America: an illustrated documentary history of the United States from the Revolution to today.	REF 973 WIT

### ERAS IN HISTORY

History can be studied by broad periods or eras. However, eras do not have neat starting and ending dates. These are titles in rough chronological order. Many of these are useful for putting events into context (understanding what else was happening during the time of a particular event).

o American eras, early American civilization and exploration to 1600.  	REF 973 AME
o Early American Civilization-1607 (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME
o American eras, 1600-1754: The colonial era.  	REF 973 AME
o American eras, 1754-1783: The revolutionary era.  	REF 973 AME
o *American Revolution 1775-1783: An encyclopedia. 2 vols.	REF 973.3 AME
o American Revolution: primary sources.	REF 973.3 AME
o Colonial America to 1763.	REF 973.2 PUR
o Colonial America: primary sources.	J REF 973.2 SAA
o Colonial Period: 1607-1750 (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME
o Debating the issues in colonial newspapers: primary documents.	REF 973.2 COP
o Encyclopedia of Colonial and Revolutionary America.	REF 973.3 ENC
o *Encyclopedia of the North American colonies. 3 vols. 	REF 970 ENC

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o North America in colonial times. 4 vols. 	REF 970.02 NOR
o Revolutionary America 1763 to 1800. (Almanacs of American Life) 	REF 973.3 PUR
o Revolutionary period: 1750-1783 (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME
o American eras, 1783-1815: Development of a nation.  	REF 973 AME
o American eras, 1800-1860: Westward expansion.  	REF 973 AME
o American eras, 1815-1850: The reform era and eastern U.S. development.  	REF 973 AME
o *Encyclopedia of the American west. 4 vols. 	REF 978 ENC
o Encyclopedia of the United States in the nineteenth century. 3 vols. 	REF 973.5 ENC
o Oxford history of the American west.	REF 978 OXF
o The American west: a multicultural encyclopedia. 	REF 978 AME
o Westward expansion: an eyewitness history.	REF 973 WES
o Westward expansion: primary sources.	J REF 978 PEN
o American Civil War: primary sources.	J REF 973.7 HIL
o American eras, 1850-1877: Civil War and reconstruction. 	REF 973 AME
o Antebellum America: 1784-1850 (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME
o Battle chronicles of the Civil War. 6 vols.	REF 973.73 BAT
o Civil war and reconstruction. Eyewitness history.	REF 973.7 KIR
o Encyclopedia of Civil War biographies. 3 vols. 	REF 973.7 ENC
o The civil war: 1850-1895 (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME
o The Civil War: a history in documents.	REF 973.7 SEI
o American eras, 1878-1899: Development of the industrial United States.  	REF 973 AME
o Industrial Revolution Almanac. 	REF 330.9 OUT
o Industrial Revolution Biographies 	REF 330.9 OUT

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o Industrial Revolution Primary Sources.	REF 330.9 OUT
o Victorian America 1876 to 1913. (Almanacs of American life)  	REF 973.8 SHI
o Working Americans 1880-1999: The Middle Class	REF 305.5 WOR
o Working Americans 1880-1999: The Upper Class	REF 305.5 WOR
o Working Americans 1880-1999: The Working Class	REF 305.5 WOR
o Working Americans 1880-1999: Their Children	REF 305.5 WOR
o Working Americans 1880-2003: Americans at War	REF 305.5 WOR
o Working Americans 1880-2005: Women at work.	REF 305.5 WOR
o America's gilded age: An Eyewitness History	REF 973.8 CLA
o First world war: An Eyewitness History	REF 940.3 KIR
o The age of reform: 1896-1920 (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME
o The Progressive Era, 1890-1920 (Eyewitness history)	REF 973.8 JAY
o Encyclopedia of the Great Depression and the New Deal. 2 vols.	REF 973.917 CIM
o Prosperity, depression & war: 1920-1945 (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME
o The Depression and new deal: a history in documents.	REF 973.91 MCE
o The Great Depression. Updated edition. (Eyewitness history)	REF 973.91 BUR
o American Home Front in World War II. Almanac. 	REF 940.53 AME
o American home Front in World War II. Biographies. 	REF 940.53 AME
o American Home Front in World War II. Sources.	REF 940.53 AME
o American decades. 9 vols. 	REF 973.9 AME
o Cold War America, 1946-1990 (Almanacs of American Life) 	REF 973.92 GRE
o Modern America, 1914-1945 (Almanacs of American Life) 	REF 973.9 GRE
o Post cold war America: 1992- (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME
o The cold war period: 1945-1992 (American history by era) 	REF 973 AME

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o The Columbia chronicles of American life 1910-1992 	REF 973.9 GOR
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**History is people.** These are titles that are purely biographical sources. Everyone has a niche in history. If you don't find your person of interest in one of these, look in some of the more specific topics that follow (Presidents, women, African-Americans, Native Americans, etc.). Almost every title in this handout includes biographical information. Backtrack if you have to: could the person be considered a renegade or rebel? Were they involved with the environment or social movements such as prohibition, abolition, or revolution?

o American cultural leaders: from colonial times to the present. 	REF 700.92 AME
o American political leaders: from colonial times to the present. 	REF 973.092 OBR
o American social leaders: from colonial times to the present. 	REF 303.48 MCG
o Dictionary of American biography. 20 vols. 	REF 920.073 DIC
o Dictionary of American religious biography 	REF 200.92 BOW
o Great lives from history. American series. 5 vols. 	REF 920 GRE

### WOMEN'S HISTORY

Women have a history intertwined with the general history of the United States. These are books that cover women's issues (note: most of the witches executed during the Salem Witch Trials were women.....)

o ABC-CLIO companion to women in the workplace.  	REF 331.4 SCH
o ABC-CLIO Companion to women's progress in America.  	REF 305.4 FRO
o American women's history	REF 305.4 WEA
o Black women in America. 2 vols. 	REF 920.72 BLA
o Encyclopedia of women in American history. 3 vols.	REF 305.4 ENC
o Great lives from history. American women series. 5 vols. 	REF 305.4 GRE
o Greenhaven encyclopedia of witchcraft.	REF 133.4 NET
o Notable American women 1607-1950. 3 vols. 	REF 920.72 NOT
o Notable American women: a biographical dictionary completing the twentieth century. 	REF 920.72 NOT
o Notable American women: modern period. 	REF 920.72 NOT
o Reference library of American women. 4 vols.	REF 920.73 REF






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○ Witchcraft in America: primary sources.	REF 133.43 SAA
○ Women's issues: ready reference. 3 vols.	REF 305.4 WOM
○ Women's rights in the United States: a documentary history. 	REF 305.42 WOM
○ Women's Suffrage in America. Updated edition. (Eyewitness history)	REF 305.42 FRO

## AFRICAN AMERICANS, SLAVERY, CIVIL RIGHTS

Even what seems specific in history really is not. Researching African-American individuals spills into issues such as slavery and civil rights. Biographical information is completely intertwined with issues and vice versa. Take a look at these titles, but also look at general history books and books about eras.

○ A Biographical history of Blacks in America since 1528. 	REF 973.0496 TOP
○ A to Z of African Americans. 10 vols. 	REF 973.0496 AFR
○ African American almanac. 9th ed. 	REF 305.896 AFR
○ African American encyclopedia. 6 vols. + 2 supplements. 	REF 973.0496 AFR
○ African American frontiers: slave narratives and oral histories.	REF 973.0496 GOV
○ African-American atlas. 2nd ed.	REF 973.0496 ASA
○ African-American firsts: famous, little-known and unsung triumphs of Blacks in America.	REF 973.0496 POT
○ American civil rights: primary sources.	J REF 973.0496 ENG
○ Chronology of African American history. 	REF 973.0496 HOR
○ Civil rights in the United States. 2 vols.	REF 323.4 CIV
○ Civil rights movement: an eyewitness history.	REF 323.1 WEX
○ Dictionary of Afro-American slavery.	REF 973.0496 DIC
○ Encyclopedia of African American culture and history. 5 vols.	REF 973.0496 ENC
○ Encyclopedia of civil rights in America. 3 vols.	REF 323.1 ENC
○ Organizing Black America: An Encyclopedia of African American Associations.	REF 305.896 ORG
○ Racial and ethnic relations in America. 3 vols.	REF 305.8 RAC

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o Reference library of Black America. 5 vols. 	REF 973.0496 REF
o Slavery in America: from colonial times to the Civil War: an eyewitness history.	REF 973.0496 SCH
o Slavery throughout history: primary sources.	J REF 306.3 SLA
o Statutory history of the United States. Civil rights. 2 vols.	REF 342.085 SCH
o The Biographical dictionary of African Americans. 	REF 973.0496 KRA
o The struggle against slavery: a history in documents.	REF 306.362 WAL
o The Underground railroad in Illinois.	REF 973.7115 TUR

**Native Americans** played a part in all of what we consider our history. Check these titles for information about our relationships with Native Americans and biographies of individuals.

o American Indian Biographies. 	REF 970.1 AME
o American Indians. 3 vols.	REF 970.1 AME
o Atlas of the North American Indian.	REF 970.1 WAL
o Encyclopedia of North American Indians. 11 vols.	REF 970.1 ENC
o History of the Indian tribes of the United States.	REF 970.1 SCH

## IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURES

**America is a melting pot of ethnic backgrounds.** Many people came here by choice, some did not have a choice. Check these books for issues about immigration.

o *Encyclopedia of American Immigration. 4 vols. 	REF 304.8 ENC
o Encyclopedia of multiculturalism. 6 vols.	REF 306.445 ENC
o Ethnic almanac.	REF 973.04 BER
o Ethnic America: a history.	REF 973.04 SOW
o Gale encyclopedia of multicultural America. 2 vols.	REF 305.8 GAL
o Harvard encyclopedia of American ethnic groups.	REF 973 HAR
o Makers of America.	REF 973 MAK
o U. S. Immigration and Migration Reference Library. Almanac. 2 vols. 	REF 304.873 UNI
o U. S. Immigration and Migration Reference Library. Biographies. 2 vols. 	REF 304.873 UNI

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○ U. S. Immigration and Migration Reference Library. Primary Sources.	REF 304.873 UNI
○ We the people: an atlas of America's ethnic diversity.	REF 305.8 ALL (Atlas stand)

## BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND LABOR

“The chief business of the American people is business” [Calvin Coolidge].

Much of what happens in America affects business and much of what happens in business affects America. Check these books for information related to business. (Land barons and financiers were and are all businessmen).

○ A Financial history of the United States. 3 vols.	REF 332 MAR
○ ABC-CLIO companion to the American labor movement.  	REF 331.88 TAY
○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Airline industry. 	REF 387.7 ENC
○ Business and Industry. 11 volumes.	REF 338 BUS
○ Economics. 6 vols.	REF 330 ECO
○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Automobile industry, 1896-1920. 	REF 338.47 AUT
○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Automobile industry, 1920-1980. 	REF 338.47 AUT
○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Banking and finance to 1913 	REF 332.1 BAN
○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Banking and finance, 1913-1989 	REF 332.1 BAN
○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Iron and steel in the nineteenth century. 	REF 338.76 IRO
○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Iron and steel in the twentieth century. 	REF 338.76 IRO
○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Railroads in the age of regulation. 	REF 385 RAI

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○ Encyclopedia of American business history and biography: Railroads in the nineteenth century. 	REF 385 RAI
○ Encyclopedia of American economic history. 3 vols.	REF 330.973 ENC
○ Gale encyclopedia of U.S. economic history. 2 vols.	REF 330.973 GAL
○ Great events from history II. Business and commerce. 3 vols.	REF 330.9 GRE
○ Statutory history of the United States. Labor organization.	REF 344.01 KOR
○ Working in America: an eyewitness history.	REF 973 REE

## PRESIDENCY AND POLITICS

Everything the President does impacts the country and everything that happens in the country impacts the Presidency. These are books about the Presidency: campaigns, elections, and time in office.

○ Almanac of American Presidents.	REF 973.092 ALM
○ American Presidential campaigns and elections. 3 vols.	REF 324.973 AME
○ American Presidents year by year	REF 973.099 NEL
○ American Presidents. 3 vols.	REF 973.09 AME
○ Compilation of the messages and papers of the presidents. 20 vols.	REF 973 COM
○ Congressional Quarterly's guide to U.S. elections.	REF 324.973 CON
○ *Encyclopedia of the American Presidency. 4 vols.	REF 973.09 ENC
○ Encyclopedia of the Republican Party / Democratic Party + supplements.	REF 324.2734 ENC
○ Encyclopedia of third parties in America. 	REF 324.273 NES
○ Facts about the Presidents.	REF 973.09 KAN
○ Historic documents on Presidential elections 1787-1988.	REF 324.973 HIS
○ History of American Presidential elections. 4 vols. (Vol. 2 is missing)	REF 324.973 SCH
○ Impeachable offenses: a documentary history from 1787 to the present.	REF 342.73 VAN
○ Presidential scandals.	REF 973.099 SCH
○ Running for President.	REF 324.973 RUN

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○ The Presidents speak: the inaugural addresses of the American presidents from Washington to Clinton.	REF 973.09 PRE
○ The Presidents. 8 vols.	REF 973.092 PRE
○ To The Best Of My Ability: The American Presidents.	REF 973.099 TO
○ U.S. Presidential candidates and the elections. 2 vols.	REF 324.63 HAV

### Political and government handbooks.

○ A Historical guide to the U.S. Government.	REF 353 HIS
○ American political dictionary.	REF 320.973 PLA
○ Dorsey dictionary of American government and politics.	REF 320.973 SHA
○ Encyclopedia of American government. 4 vols.	REF 320.473 ENC
○ Encyclopedia of American political history. 3 vols.	REF 320.973 ENC
○ Famous first facts about American politics. ☐	REF 320.973 ANZ

### The U.S. Constitution, The Supreme Court and the Law

○ *American justice: ready reference. 3 vols. 👤	REF 349.73 AME
○ Bill of Rights: a documentary history. 2 vols.	REF 342.73 SCH
○ Complete Bill of Rights: the drafts, debates, sources and origins.	REF 342.73 COM
○ Congressional Quarterly's guide to the U.S. Supreme Court.	REF 347.73 CON
○ *Courtroom drama: 120 of the world's most notable trials.	REF 347 COU
○ Encyclopedia of the American Constitution. 6 vols.	REF 342.73 ENC
○ Great American court cases. 4 vols.	REF 349.73 GRE
○ Great American trials.	REF 347.07 GRE
○ Historic U. S. court cases 1690-1990.	REF 349.73 JOH
○ Leading Constitutional decisions. 15th ed.	REF 342.73 CUS
○ Magill's legal guide. 3 vols.	REF 349.73 MAG
○ Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States. 2nd ed. 👤	REF 347.7326 OXF
○ Reference guide to the United States Supreme Court. 👤	REF 347.73 REF
○ The Bill of Rights: a history in documents.	REF 342.73 PAT
○ *The Constitution and its amendments. 4 vols.	REF 342.73 CON
○ The Justices of the United States Supreme Court. 👤	REF 347.73 JUS
○ The United States Constitution: questions and answers.	REF 342.73 VIL

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o U.S. Laws, Acts, and Treaties	REF 348.732 US
o United States Supreme Court. 10 vols.	REF 347.74 UNI
o *West's encyclopedia of American law. 	REF 348.73 WES

## FOREIGN POLICY, CONFLICTS, AND WARS

Beyond the obvious foreign relations breakdown of the American Revolution, and the Civil War on our soil, American history has been shaped by other foreign policy and foreign relations issues. There have been other wars and conflicts that shaped our country.

These are reference materials that cover these topics. There is a lot of information in the general collection as well.

o Cold war. 2 vols.  	REF 909.82 COL
o Cold War: A History in Documents.	REF 909.82 WIN
o Dynamics of world power.	REF 327.73 SCH
o Encyclopedia of American foreign policy. 3 vols.  	REF 327.73 ENC
o Encyclopedia of battles in North America, 1517-1916. 	REF 970 PUR
o Encyclopedia of the War of 1812. 	REF 973.5 ENC
o Encyclopedia of U.S. foreign relations. 4 vols.	REF 327.73 ENC
o *Facts about the American wars. 	REF 973 FAC
o French and Indian War.  	REF 973.26 HIL
o Grolier Library of World War I. 8 vols.	REF 940.3 GRO
o Mexican American War.  	REF 973.62 MEX
o Military history of the United States. 15 vols.	REF 973 CHA
o New Grolier Encyclopedia of World War II. 8 vols.	REF 940.53 NEW
o Spanish-American War.  	REF 973.89 BRA
o The Oxford companion to American military history.	REF 973 OXF
o United States at War. 2 vols. 	REF 973 UNI
o War of 1812.  	REF 973.52 HOW
o World War I: a history in documents.	REF 940.3 COE

The Lansing Library has a very strong collection for United States history. Use this guide to find reference sources, but ask for help at the Reference Desk if you aren't finding what you need. The library also has good material in the general collection. Use the catalog to find additional material.

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