## **Contents**

	Plates	Xi
	Figures	XV
	Tables	xvii
	Preface and acknowledgments	xix
	Chronology of significant dates in American history	xxi
1	The American context	1
	Ethnic culture	8
	Religious culture	11
	Political-legal culture	12
	Economic culture	14
	Media culture	15
	Arts, sports and leisure cultures	16
	National identity	17
	Social and institutional change	22
	American attitudes to US society	23
	Exercises	26
	Further reading	27
	Websites	28
2	The country	29
	Political ecology	30
	Natural resources, economic development and	
	environmental concerns	30
	Climate	40
	The regions: cultural geography	41

## vi Contents

	Native American cultural regions	41
	Cultural regions in the contemporary US: political geography	46
	Changing public attitudes: where do we go from here?	54
	Exercises	55
	Further reading	56
	Websites	56
3	The people: settlement and immigration	57
	Mother of exiles	58
	Early encounters between Europeans and Native Americans	59
	The founders	61
	The first wave: colonial immigration, 1680–1776	63
	The second wave: the "old" immigrants, 1820–1890	65
	Settlement patterns and nativism	66
	The third wave: the "new" immigrants, 1890–1930	67
	A renewed immigration debate and immigration restriction	68
	Wartime policies and the search for principle in	71
	immigration policy	72
	The fourth wave: 1965 to the present	75
	Attitudes to immigrants: the contemporary debate	79
	Exercises	80
	Further reading Websites	80
4	The people: women and minorities	83
	The reason for American women's and minority history	84
	Women in America	84
	Native Americans	91
	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans	100
	African Americans	103
	Asian Americans	110
	Latino Americans	114
	Exercises	119
	Further reading	120
	Websites	121
5	Religious culture	123
	Religious history	125
	Contemporary US religion	138
	Church, state and politics	144
	Religion and education	147

		Contents
	Attitudes to religion	149
	Exercises	151
	Further reading	152
	Websites	153
6	Political institutions: the federal government	155
	Historical origins	156
	The constitutional framework	157
	The political parties	161
	The legislative branch	165
	The executive branch	173
	Presidential elections	177
	Campaign financing	184
	Reform the system?	186
	The judicial branch	187
	Exercises	188
	Further reading	189
	Websites	189
7	Political institutions: state and	
	local government	191
	The place of state government in American federalism	192
	The evolution of state government and federalism in the US	195
	The structure of state government	198
	Local government	202
	Exercises	208
	Further reading	209
	Websites	209
_		
8	Foreign policy	211
	A nation apart? American attitudes to world affairs	212
	From neutrality to isolationism, 1776–1830	216
	From expansionism to imperialism, 1783–1914	217
	Isolationism and internationalism, 1914–1945	219
	The Cold War era, 1946–1992	223
	The sole superpower in the post-Cold War era and beyond	229
	The foreign policy establishment debate	235
	Exercises	238
	Further reading	239
	Websites	239

vii

## viii Contents

9	The legal system	241
	Legal history	244
	The sources of US law	246
	The court system	247
	Federal and state court proceedings	252
	The legal profession	254
	Crime and punishment	256
	Attitudes to the legal system	264
	Exercises	265
	Further reading	266
	Websites	267
10	The economy	269
	Economic history	270
	American economic liberalism: theory and practice	274
	Social class and economic inequality	276
	The contemporary economy	277
	Industry and manufacturing	282
	Service industries	283
	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	284
	Environmental issues	285
	Financial and industrial institutions	286
	Attitudes to the economic system	294
	Exercises	295
	Further reading	296
	Websites	296
11	Social services	297
	Social services history	299
	The organization of contemporary social services	303
	Public social services	304
	The needy and the poverty line	307
	Voluntary services	309
	Healthcare	310
	Housing	313
	Attitudes to social services	318
	Exercises	320
	Further reading	320
	Websites	321

		Contents
12	Education	323
	American attitudes to education: high expectations	324
	American educational history	324
	Elementary and secondary schools	332
	Private elementary and secondary schools	340
	Higher education	341
	Recent problems and policy debates	345
	Exercises	348
	Further reading	349
	Websites	349
13	The media	351
	Media history	354
	Freedom of the media	360
	The contemporary print media	362
	The contemporary broadcasting media	367
	The Internet and new media sources	373
	Attitudes to the media	375
	Exercises	377
	Further reading	378
	Websites	378
14	Arts, sports and leisure cultures	381
	The arts	384
	Sports	397
	Leisure	403
	Exercises	407
	Further reading	408
	Websites	409
	Appendices	
	Declaration of Independence in Congress, July 4, 1776	411
	Constitution of the United States of America and amendments	414
	Index	133

ix