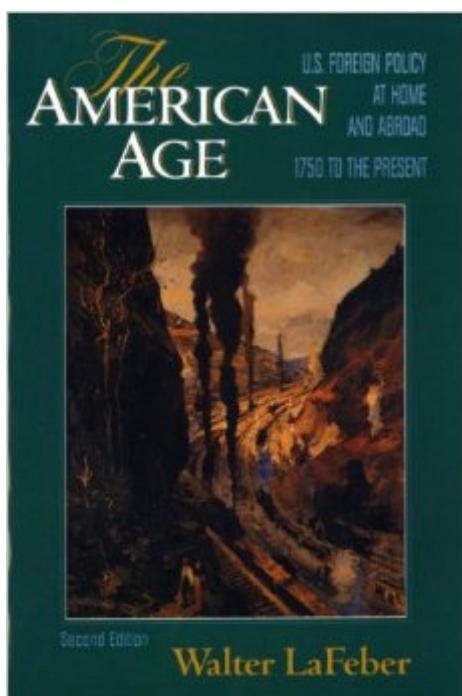


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The American Age: United States Foreign Policy At Home And Abroad 1750 To The Present (2 Volumes In 1)



Synopsis

In this leading text, Walter LaFeber offers a comprehensive history of American foreign relations from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. His narrative account features several major themes: the connections between U.S. foreign policy and domestic politics; the impact of American economic development on foreign policy interests; popular culture, particularly film, as a filter for public opinion on American commitments abroad; the roles of public opinion, leadership, and bureaucracy in the formation of policy. In the Second Edition, LaFeber has revised nearly every chapter in the book. In the early chapters, there is more attention to the origins of foreign policy institutions and practices, including precedents for the executive agreement, and new discussions of U.S. relations with Britain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The more recent chapters feature fresh insights of Potsdam, the origins of the Korean War, and the Cuban Missile Crisis--all based on new evidence drawn from Soviet archives. The new edition amply covers the momentous events that brought the Cold War to an end and thrust the United States into the uncertain position of the world's only superpower.

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Customer Reviews

I took 3 classes under Walter LaFeber 35 years ago. He is the best and most inspiring teacher I've ever had. I'm pleased with the generally favorable tenor of these reviews, particularly given the bad and cursory review printed in the New York Times by an historian who must not have read the book. I always wanted LaFeber to turn his brilliant class lectures into a book, and he does so in this

very satisfying text. LaFeber respects the form of the textbook -- he is intent on reporting the facts in an interesting and concise fashion. Of course, his interpretations are there, but he does not overdo it. Nor is he the type of writer who is going to make it easy on the reader by employing snappy metaphors and buzzwords. You are required to think long and hard about what he is saying. After you are done with the book, re-read his preface, where he does give you some important themes he is trying to develop. While I found the book to be completely satisfying, LaFeber's real talent is as a lecturer. Here is this nerdy-looking guy and son of a grocer who always wears a suit and seems to be a Middle-America conservative. But he writes a three word outline on the chalkboard and proceeds to give a spell-binding lecture without notes -- which brings to life the policymakers involved in history and which raises profoundly Revisionist questions about history. The man is a Rock-Star. I've been practicing law for 30 years and would just once like to be able to grab hold of an audience like LaFeber did in every class. Of course, the great man would have little patience for all of the above observations and would expect me to respond to the substance of his work. So here goes. For LaFeber, the U.S. was a great and important power from its inception.

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