

## Alan Brinkley The Unfinished Nation

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known for its clear narrative voice impeccable scholarship and affordability alan brinkley s the unfinished nation offers a concise but comprehensive examination of american history balancing social and cultural history with traditional political and diplomatic themes it tells the story of the diversity and complexity of the united states and the forces that have enabled it to survive and flourish despite division this fifth edition features eight new essays and enhanced coverage of recent events and developments in the

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publisher description

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a thoroughly revised updated and newly illustrated version of the gaddis smith called the best book on the totality of the carter presidency the new edition includes more on the former president's foreign and environmental policies and expands coverage of the personal carter as well as his wife rosalyn's activist role during his administration

andrew jackson spoke to americans in ways that reflected the concerns of a young nation grover cleveland helped citizens redefine themselves after the havoc of the civil war era fdr confronted widespread hardship with hope and determination while eisenhower spoke to our fears of the communist menace throughout our history presidents by their very utterances have shaped our sense of who we are as americans as mary stuckey observes presidents embrace articulate and reinvigorate our sense of national identity they define who americans are often by declaring who they aren't in this book she shows how presidential speech has served to broaden the american political community over the past two centuries while at the same time excluding others ranging broadly from andrew jackson to bill clinton and george w bush stuckey demonstrates how presidents accomplish the dual enactment of inclusion and exclusion through their rhetorical and political choices our early leaders were preoccupied with balancing the growing nation later presidents were concerned with the nature and definitions of citizenship by examining the political speeches of presidents exemplifying distinctly different circumstances she presents a series of snapshots which when taken together reveal both the continuity and the changes in our national self understanding ambitious and sweeping stuckey's work documents the tactics that have naturalized and legitimated inclusion and exclusion tracing the progress of groups such as women and african americans from political invisibility to partial visibility and eventual inclusion she also shows how the terms of inclusion have varied with changing political winds helping us understand how depictions of the powerless by the powerful reflect and influence the status of various groups stuckey's analysis shows how presidents use language rooted in their times and circumstances to frame and influence contemporary definitions of citizenship a provocative book that documents the changes in our understanding of who is and who isn't one of us defining americans reveals that all presidents draw upon the same set of national ideals values and events but not all use those ideas in precisely the same ways

the maverick politician from georgia who rode the post watergate wave into office but whose term was consumed by economic and international crises a peanut farmer from georgia jimmy carter rose to national power through mastering the strategy of the maverick politician as the face of the new south carter s strongest support emanated from his ability to communicate directly to voters who were disaffected by corruption in politics but running as an outsider was easier than governing as one as princeton historian julian e zelizer shows in this examination of carter s presidency once in power carter faced challenges sustaining a strong political coalition as he focused on policies that often antagonized key democrats whose support he desperately needed by 1980 carter stood alone in the oval office as he confronted a battered economy soaring oil prices american hostages in iran and the soviet invasion of afghanistan carter s unpopularity enabled ronald reagan to achieve a landslide victory ushering in a conservative revolution but during carter s post presidential career he has emerged as an important voice for international diplomacy and negotiation remaking his image as a statesman for our time

before hillary there was rosallynn rosallynn carter the most politically active first lady since eleanor roosevelt was sometimes called the second most powerful person in the united states even when her husband jimmy carter s approval ratings sank to record lows she still tied with mother teresa as the most admired woman in the world in this first biography of rosallynn carter since 1980 and first book length account since her own 1984 memoir scott kaufman depicts a hard working first lady whose energetic style sparked an administration that seemed to have lost its way and who accomplished far more than she received credit for he particularly examines how this activist first lady became a lightning rod for controversy when she took on roles that some considered inappropriate not only her husband s sounding board and adviser mrs carter at times seemed to serve as a virtual copresident sitting in on cabinet meetings testifying before congress and traveling abroad as the president s personal representative to discuss substantive issues with foreign officials kaufman challenges outdated stereotypes about the first lady dubbed a steel magnolia showing readers a talented purposeful woman who pursued an ambitious agenda as the president s equal partner meticulously researched and balanced his account provides the fullest account to date of her efforts on behalf of the mentally ill and of her diplomatic trips to latin america and asia it also addresses the irony that despite the strides she made in advancing her office beyond that of mere hostess rosallynn carter had a difficult relationship with feminists who believed that she failed to take their interests to heart drawing upon recently released documents from the carter library as well as on interviews with president and mrs carter and the latter s white house aides kaufman s insightful narrative illuminates both the carter years and the changing roles of women in the late twentieth century while objectively critiquing rosallynn carter s part in a presidency that fell short of its promise it portrays a dynamic and influential individual who undeniably helped mold the institution of first lady into its modern form

the authors of this volume argue that urban education is in urgent need of reform and that although there have been plenty of innovative and even promising attempts to improve conditions most have been doomed the reason for this they agree lies in the failure of our major cities to develop their civic capacity the ability to build and maintain a broad

social and political coalition across all sectors of the urban community in pursuit of a common goal

shortly after the end of the second world war president harry s truman declared his support for the creation and maintenance of the modern state of israel basing that support on religious and theological grounds this is the first book to explore the connection between the religious backgrounds and beliefs of u s presidents in relation to their policies toward israel from truman to ford u s presidents relied in part on their religious and moral commitments to support their policies and views toward israel beginning with carter however presidents have abandoned the role of champions of israel to become champion of the peace process stressing peace and a secular approach that rises above the religious and theological fray and yet even in the context of this attempted fair mindedness u s presidents reveal their personal religious and moral beliefs in their responses to the issue of israel today george w bush one of the most vocally religious presidents seems poised to take up the tradition once again of relying on his religious convictions to justify his positions toward the arab israeli conflict here merkley argues that while faith alone does not determine action or that it even has a controlling influence religious belief does play a role in the policies that u s presidents and the nation adopt toward israel when truman declared i am cyrus he was emphatically grounding his support of the modern state of israel in his belief in the bible referring to the persian king who allowed the jews to return to israel and to build the second temple truman revealed his religious commitments and supported his policies on biblical grounds bringing to the fore neglected evidence of the role of religious belief in policies toward israel merkley explores an overlooked aspect of presidential decision making suggesting that religion while not the only factor is at least among the influences that determine a president s view of the arab israeli conflict from truman to ford policies often reflected the evangelical traditions that dictated unyielding support of israel but with carter s commitment to the peace process above all else the trend turned toward moral absolutes and more general religious beliefs that could sustain arguments for a negotiated peace george w bush thus far however has clearly demonstrated his personal religious beliefs and may in the end reclaim the mantle of cyrus

known for its clear narrative voice and impeccable scholarship alan brinkley s best selling survey text invites students to think critically about the many forces that continually create the unfinished nation that is the united states in a concise but wide ranging narrative brinkley shows the diversity and complexity of the nation and our understanding of its history one that continues to evolve both in the events of the present and in our reexamination of new evidence and perspectives on the past this sixth edition features a new series of patterns of popular culture essays as well as expanded coverage of pre columbian america new america in the world essays and updated coverage of recent events and developments that demonstrates how a new generation continues to shape the american story

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