

AP US Reading List

The principle written portion of the AP exam consists of a document based question. This question requires a combination of extensive background knowledge and use of primary documents provided as part of the exam. The 1998 DBQ will be taken from the period 1775-1825. Consequently, reading books pertaining to this period would be particularly useful in preparation for the exam.

Biographies

- Ambrose, Stephen. *Eisenhower: Soldier, General of the Army, President-Elect.*
Eisenhower: The President.
- Baker, Liva. *The Justice from Beacon Hill: The Life and Times of Oliver Wendell Holmes.*
- Brands, R.W. *T.R.: The Last Romantic.*
- Brookhiser, Richard. *Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington.*
- Burstein, Andrew. *The Inner Jefferson: Portrait of a Grieving Optimist.*
- Cooper, John Milton. *The Warrior and the Priest.*
- *Dalleck, Robert. *Lone Star Risng: Lyndon Johnson and His Times.*
Flawed Giant.
Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy.
Hail to the Chief: The Making and Unmaking of American Presidents.
- Donald, David Herbert. *Lincoln.*
- d' Este, Carlo. *Patton: A Genius for War.*
- Eisenhower, John S.D. *Agent of Destiny: The Life and Times of General Winfield Scott.*
- Ellis, Joseph J. *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson.*
- Fellman, Michael. *Citizen Sherman.*
- Fromkin, David. *In the Time of the Americans: FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Marshall, MacArthur-The Generation That Changed America's Role in the World.*
- Goodwin, Doris Kearns. *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt; The Homefront in World War II.*
- Heckscher, August. *Woodrow Wilson.*
- Heidler, David and Jeanne. *Old Hickory's War: Andrew Jackson and the Quest for Empire.*
- Hobson, Charles F. *The Great Chief Justice: John Marshall and the Rule of Law.*
- Hurst, Jack. *Nathan Bedford Forrest.*
- Kray, Ed. *Chief Justice: [A Biography of Earl Warren.]*
- Larson, Robert W. *Red Cloud: Warrior-Statesmen of the Lakota Sioux.*
- Larsen, Lawrence H. and Nancy Hulston. *Pendergast!*
- Lewis, David Levering. *W.E.B. DuBois: Biography of a Race.*
- *McCullough, David. *Truman.*
Path Between the Seas
- Miller, Nathan. *Theodore Roosevelt: A Life.*
- Nagel, Paul C. *John Quincy Adams: A Public Life, a Private Life.*
- NcFeely, William S. *Fredrick Douglass.*
- Peterson, Merril. *The Great Triumvirate.*
- Randall, Willard Stern. *Thomas Jefferson.*
George Washington: A Life.
- Reeves, Richard. *President Kennedy: Profile of Power.*

*Remini, Robert V. *Henry Clay: Statesman for the Union.*
Daniel Webster: The Man and His Time.
Andrew Jackson.

Robertson, James I. Jr. *Stonewall Jackson.*

Shapley, Deborah. *Promise and Power: The Life and Times of Robert McNamara.*

Sugden, John. *Tecumseh: A Life.*

Thomas, Emory M. *Robert E. Lee.*

Utley, Robert M. *The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull.*

Wert, Jeffry D. *Custer: The Controversial Life of George Armstrong Custer.*
General James Longstreet: The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier.

Wills, Brian Steel. *A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest.*

Wilson, Douglas L. *Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln.*

The Revolution - Early Republic

Beer, Samuel H. *To Make a Nation: The Rediscovery of American Federalism.*

Bellesiles, Michael A. *Revolutionary Outlaws: Ethan Allen and the Struggle for Independence on the Early American Frontier.*

Bushman, Richard L. *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities.*

Cohen, Bernard. *Science and the Founding Fathers: Science in the Political Thought of Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, and Madison.*

Demos, John. *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America.*

Draper, Theodore. *A Struggle for Power: The American Revolution.*

Elkins, Stanley and Eric McKittrick. *The Age of Federalism.*

Fischer, David Hackett. *Paul Revere's Ride.*

Fleming, Thomas. *Liberty: The American Revolution.*

Ketchum, Richard M. *Saratoga: Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War.*

Innes, Stephen. *Creating the Commonwealth: The Economic Culture of Puritan New England.*

Maier, Pauline. *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence.*

Marszalek, John F. *The Petticoat Affair: Manners, Mutiny, and Sex in Andrew Jackson's White House.*

Martin, James Kirby. *Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary Hero: An American Warrior Reconsidered.*

Middlekauff, Robert. *The Glorious Cause .*

Miller, William Lee. *The Business of May Next: James Madison and the Founding.*

Morgan, Ted. *Wilderness at Dawn: The Settling of the North American Continent.*

Norton, Mary Beth. *Founding Mothers and Fathers: Gendered Power and the Forming of American Society.*

Sorbel, Robert. *For Want of a Nail: If Burgoyne Had Won at Saratoga.*

Taylor, Alan. *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic.*

Tuchman, Barbara. *The First Salute.*

Tucker, Robert W. and David C. Hendrickson. *Empire of Liberty: The Statecraft of Thomas Jefferson.*

*Wood, Gordon S. *The Radicalism of the American Revolution.*

The Constitution

Ackerman, Bruce. *We The People: Foundations.*

Bailyn, Bernard. *The Debate on the Constitution: Federalist and Antifederalist Speeches, Articles, and Letters During the Struggle over Ratification*.
Burt, Robert A. *The Constitution in Conflict*.
Kyvig, David E. *Explicit and Authentic Acts: Amending the US Constitution 1776-1995*.
Irons, Peter and Staphanie Guitton. *May it Please the Court*.
Lazare, Daniel. *The Frozen Republic: How the Constitution is Paralyzing Democracy*.
Leuchtenburg, William E. *The Supreme Court Reborn: Constitutional Reform in the Age of Roosevelt*.
*McDonald, Forrest. *Novus Ordo Seclorum: Intellectual Origins of the Constitution*.
Powe, Lucas A. Jr. *The Fourth Estate and the Constitution: Freedom of the Press in America*.
Rabban, David. *Free Speech in its Forgotten Years*.
Rakove, Jack N. *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution*.

Tushnet, Mark V. *Making Constitutional Law: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court, 1961- 1991*.

White, G. Edward. *Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: Law and the Inner Self*.

19th Century History

Allen, Oliver E. *The Tiger : The Rise and Fall of Tammany Hall*.

Ayers, Edward L. *The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction*.

Brands, H.W. *Bound to Empire: The United States and the Philippines*.

Calloway, Colin G. *The American Revolution in Indian Country: Crisis and Diversity in Native American Communities*.

Chernow, Ron. *The House of Morgan: An American Banking Dynasty*.

Eisenhower, John S.D. *The Agent of Destiny*.

Frazier, Ian. *Family*.

Kenny, Kevin. *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires*.

McCurry, Stephanie. *Masters of Small Worlds: Yeoman Households, Gender Relations, and the Political Culture of the Antebellum South Carolina Low Country*.

Musicant, Ivan. *Empire by Default: The Spanish American War and the Dawn of the American Century*.

Rybczynski, Witold. *City Life: Urban Expectations in a New World*.

Rohrbough, Malcolm J. *Days of Gold: The California Gold Rush and the American Nation*.

Sellers, Charles. *The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846*.

Winders, Richard Bruce. *Mr. Polk's Army: The American Military Experience in the Mexican War*.

Civil War

Clinton, Catherine and Nina Silber. *Divided Houses: Gender and the Civil War*.

Freehling, William W. *The Road to Disunion: Vol. I. Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854*.

Gaines, W. Craig. *The Confederate Cherokees: John Drew's Regiment of Mounted Rifles*.

Gaff, Alan D. *On Many a Bloody Field: Four Years in the Iron Brigade*.

Gallagher, Gary W. *The Confederate War*.

Lee: The Soldier.

The Third Day at Gettysburg and Beyond.

Garner, Stanton. *The Civil War World of Herman Melville*.

Glatthaar, Joseph T. *Partners in Command: The Relationship Between Leaders in the Civil War*.

Harsh, Joseph L. *Confederate Tide Rising: Robert E. Lee and the Making of Southern Strategy*.
 Hattaway, Herman and Archer Jones. *How the North Won*.
 Hauptman, Laurence M. *Between Two Fires: American Indians in the Civil War*.
The Iroquois in the Civil War: From Battlefield to Reservation.
 Hughes, Nathaniel Cheairs. *The Pride of the Confederate Artillery*.
 Jones, Howard. *Union in Peril: The Crisis over British Intervention in the Civil War*.
 Klein, Maury. *Days of Defiance: Sumter, Secession, and the Coming of the Civil War*.
 Lowry, Thomas P. *Tarnished Eagles: The Courts-Martial of Fifty Union Colonels and
 Lieutenant Colonels*.
 McPherson, James M. *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*.
Drawn With the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War.
Battle Cry of Freedom.
*Lamson of the Gettysburg: The Civil War Letters of Lieutenant Roswell
 Lamson, U.S. Navy*.
Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution.
 Miller, William Lee. *Arguing About Slavery*.
 Neely, Mark E. *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties*.
 Newell, Clayton R. *Lee vs. McClellan: The First Campaign*.
 Nolan, Alan T. *Lee Considered: General Robert E. Lee and Civil War History*.
 Rable, George C. *The Condederate Republic: A Revolution Against Politics*.
 Reardon, Carol. *Pickett's Charge in History and in Memory*.
 Savage, Douglas. *The Court Martial of Robert E. Lee: A Historical Novel*.
 Shea, William L. and Earl J. Hess. *Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West*.
 Speer, Lonnie R. *Portals to Hell: Military Prisons of the Civil War*.
 Stamp, Kenneth M. *America in 1857: A Nation on the Brink*.
 Sutherland, Daniel E. *Seasons of War: The Ordeal of a Confederate Community*.
 Thomas, Emory M. *The Confederate Nation, 1861-1865*.
 Wise, Stephen R. *Gate of Hell: Campaign for Charleston Harbor, 1863*.
 Woodworth, Steven E. *Jefferson Davis and His Generals: The Failure of Confederate
 Command in the West*.
Davis and Lee at War.

The "West"/Manifest Destiny

*Ambrose, Stephen E. *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the
 Brown, Dee. *The Wild West*.
 Dietrich, William. *Northwest Passage: The Great Columbia River*.
 Greene, Jerome A. *Battles and Skirmishes of the Great Sioux War, 1876-1877*.
Lakota and Cheyenne: Indian Views of the Great Sioux War, 1876-1877.
 Hosley, William. *Colt: The Making of an American Legend*.
 Hurt, Douglas R. *The Ohio Frontier: Crucible of the Old Northwest, 1720-1830*.
 Long, Jeff. *Duel of Eagles: The Mexican and U.S. Fight for the Alamo*.
 Milner, Clyde A. II. *A New Significance: Re-Envisioning the History of the American West*.
 Tefertiller, Casey. *Wyatt Earp: Life Behind the Legend*.
 Ward, Geoffrey C. *The West: An Illustrated History*.
 White, Richard. *"It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own: A New History of the American
 West*.*

20th Century History

Allen, Frederick Lewis. *Only Yesterday*.

Ambrose, Stephen. *Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy, 1938-1980*.

Barry, John M. *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America*.

Brinkley, Alan. *Voices of Protest: Huey Long, Father Coughlin, and the Great Depression*.

Cooper, John. *Pivotal Decades*.

Dalleck Robert. *Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*.

Diggins, John Patrick. *The Crucial Decades, 1946-60*.

Gilbert, Martin. *A History of the Twentieth Century*.

*Halberstam, David. *The Fifties*.

Kearns, Doris. *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*.

Kennan, George. *American Diplomacy, 1900-1950*.

Leuchtenburg, William E. *Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1940*.

McNamara, Robert. *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam*.

Patterson, James T. *Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-74*.

Pells, Richard H. *Radical Visions and American Dreams: Cultural and Social Thought in the Depression Years*

Smith, Gaddis. *The Last Years of the Monroe Doctrine, 1945-1993*.

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Turkel, Studs. *Hard Times*.

Watkins, T.H. *The Great Depression: America in the 1930s*.

Williams, T. Harry. *Huey Long*.

Williams, William Appleman. *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*.

Wicker, Tom. *Tragic Failure: Racial Integration in America*.

Young, Andrew. *An Easy Burden: The Civil Rights Movement and the Transformation of America*.

World War I

Bailey, Thomas A. *Woodrow Wilson and the Great Betrayal*.

Fussell, Paul. *The Great War and Modern Memory*.

Harries, Meirion and Susie. *The Last Days of Innocence: America at War, 1917-1918*.

Mayer, Arno J. *Politics and Diplomacy in Peacemaking: Containment and Counterrevolution at Versailles, 1918-1919*.

*Tuchman, Barbara. *The Proud Tower*.

Wohl, Robert. *The Generation of 1914*.

World War II

Alperovitz, Gar. *Atomic Diplomacy: Hiroshima and Potsdam*.

Ambrose, Stephen E. *Citizen Soldiers: The US Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany*.

Biddiscombe, Perry. *Werwolf: The History of the National Socialist Guerrilla Movement 1944-1946*.

Clausen, Henry C. and Bruce Lee. *Pearl Harbor: Final Judgement*.

*Dalleck, Robert. *The American Style of Foreign Policy*.

Daws, Gavan. *Prisoners of the Japanese: POWs of World War II in the Pacific*.

Divine, Robert A. *Roosevelt and World War II*.
Dower, John W. *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*.
Herken, Gregg. *The Winning Weapon*.
Iriye, Akira. *After Imperialism: The Search for a New Order in the Far East, 1921-1933*.
Keegan, John. *The Second World War*.
Larrabee, Eric. *Commander in Chief: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, His Lieutenants and Their War*.
Linderman, Gerald E. *The World Within War: America's Combat Experience in World War II*.
Lomax, Eric. *The Railway Man: A POW's Searing Account of War, Brutality and Forgiveness*.
Moskin, J. Robert. *Mr. Truman's War: Final Victories of WWII and the Birth of the Postwar World*.
Overy, Richard. *Why the Allies Won*.
Prange, Gordon W. *At Dawn We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor*.
Rhodes, Richard. *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*.
Rusbridger, James and Eric Nave. *Betrayal at Pearl Harbor: How Churchill Lured Roosevelt into WWII*.
Sherwin, Martin J. *A World Destroyed: The Atomic Bomb and the Grand Alliance*.
Terkel, Studs, ed. "*The Good War*."
Tobin, James E. *Ernie Pyle's War: America's Eyewitness to World War II*.
Watt, Donald. *How War Came*.
Weigley, Russell. *Eisenhower's Lieutenants*.
Weinberg, Gerhard L. *A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II*.

Cold War and the Fifties

Caute, David. *The Great Fear: The Anti-Communist Purge under Truman and Eisenhower*.
Diggins, John Patrick. *The Crucial Decades, 1946-60*.
Inglis, Fred. *The Cruel Peace: Everyday Life and the Cold War*.
Gaddis, John L. *The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1941-1947*.
Galbraith, John K. *The Affluent Society*.
Halberstam, David. *The Fifties*.
Hastings, Max. *Korea: The Forgotten War*.
James, D. Clayton. *Refighting the Last War: Command and Crisis in Korea*.
LeFeber, Walter. *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-1980*.
Yergin, Daniel. *Shattered Peace: The Origins of the Cold War and the National Security State*.

The Sixties

Halberstam, David. *The Best and the Brightest*.
Herring, George C. *America's Longest War*.
Karnow, Stanley. *Vietnam: A History*.
Lewis, David L. *King: A Critical Biography*.
Maurer, Harry. *Strange Ground: Americans in Vietnam, an Oral History*.
McNamara, Robert. *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam*.
Mangold, Tom and John Penycate. *The Tunnels of Cu Chi*.
Moise, Edwin E. *Tonkin Gulf and the Escalation of the Vietnam War*.
Moore, Lt. Gen. Harold G. and Joseph Galloway. *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*.
Reeves, Richard. *President Kennedy: Profile of Power*.

Sheehan, Neil. *A Bright Shining Lie*.
Schulzinger, Robert D. *A Time for War: The United States and Vietnam*.
Tripp, Nathaniel. *Father, Soldier, Son: Memoir of a Platoon Leader in Vietnam*.

The Seventies

Ambrose, Stephen. *Nixon: The Triumph of a Politician, 1962-1972*.
Berman, Larry. *Planning a Tragedy: The Americanization of the War in Vietnam*.
Goodman, A.E. *The Lost Peace: America's Search for a Negotiated Settlement of the Vietnam War*.
Kissinger, Henry. *The White House Years*.
Kutler, Stanley. *The Wars of Watergate*.
Lasch, Christopher. *The Culture of Narcissism*.
Schlesinger, Arthur M. Jr. *The Imperial Presidency*.
Szulc, Tad. *The Illusion of Power: Foreign Policy in the Nixon Years*.

Intellectual History

Andrew, Christopher. *For the President's Eyes Only*.
Carter, Dan T. *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, the Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics*.
Gitlin, Todd. *The Twilight of Common Dreams: Why America is Wracked by Culture Wars*.
Keegan, John. *Fields of Battle: The Wars for North America*.
Miller, William Lee. *Arguing about Slavery: The Great Battle in the United States Congress*.
Rhodes, Richard. *Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb*.
*Schlesinger, Arthur Jr. *Cycles of American History*.
The Disuniting of America.
*Wills, Gary. *John Wayne's America*.
Lincoln at Gettysburg: Words that Remade America.
Wohl, Robert. *The Generation of 1914*.

General

Weigley, Russell. *The American Way of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy*.

*Bernard Bailyn
*Daniel Boorstin
*Forrest McDonald
*Richard Hofstadter
*David McCullough

*Any works by these authors would be excellent choices