

These Truths: A History of the United States

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## Summary:

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In the most ambitious one-volume American history in decades, award-winning historian and New Yorker writer Jill Lepore offers a magisterial account of the origins and rise of a divided nation, an urgently needed reckoning with the beauty and tragedy of American history.

Written in elegiac prose, Lepore's groundbreaking investigation places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. The American experiment rests on three ideas—"these truths," Jefferson called them—"political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. And it rests, too, on a fearless dedication to inquiry, Lepore argues, because self-government depends on it. But has the nation, and democracy itself, delivered on that promise?

These Truths tells this uniquely American story, beginning in 1492, asking whether the course of events over more than five centuries has proven the nation's truths, or belied them. To answer that question, Lepore traces the intertwined histories of American politics, law, journalism, and technology, from the colonial town meeting to the nineteenth-century party machine, from talk radio to twenty-first-century Internet polls, from Magna Carta to the Patriot Act, from the printing press to Facebook News.

Along the way, Lepore's sovereign chronicle is filled with arresting sketches of both well-known and lesser-known Americans, from a parade of presidents and a rogues' gallery of political mischief makers to the intrepid leaders of protest movements, including Frederick Douglass, the famed abolitionist orator; William Jennings Bryan, the three-time presidential candidate and ultimately tragic populist; Pauli Murray, the visionary civil rights strategist; and Phyllis Schlafly, the uncredited architect of modern conservatism.

Americans are descended from slaves and slave owners, from conquerors and the conquered, from immigrants and from people who have fought to end immigration. "A nation born in contradiction will fight forever over the meaning of its history," Lepore writes, but engaging in that struggle by studying the past is part of the work of citizenship. "The past is an inheritance, a gift and a burden," These Truths observes. "It can't be shirked. There's nothing for it but to get to know it."

These Truths by Jill Lepore Praise for These Truths JILL LEPORE is the David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History at Harvard University and a staff writer at The New Yorker . Her many books include The Secret History of Wonder Woman , a national bestseller, and Book of Ages , a finalist for the National Book Award. 'These Truths' by Jill Lepore is a gutsy and lyrical look ... I started reading 'These Truths' on a flight from Boston to Anchorage, Alaska, following in its pages America's historical journey across the continent as I passed over the same at 30,000 feet and 550 miles per hour. The flight was long, the continent big and the book vast. In 'These Truths,' Jill Lepore Looks At America Through ... In 'These Truths,' Jill Lepore Looks At America Through The Promises Of Its Beginning By engaging with our country's past and present in an intellectually honest way, Jill Lepore has created a book that truly does encapsulate the American story in all its pain and triumph.

These Truths | W. W. Norton & Company Written in elegiac prose, Lepore's groundbreaking investigation places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. The American experiment rests on three ideas—"these truths," Jefferson called them—"political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. These Truths: A History of the United States by Jill Lepore Quotes from These Truths: A H... "That the revival of Christianity coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration, an anniversary made all the more mystical when the news spread that both Jefferson and Adams had died that very day, July 4, 1826, as if by the hand of God, meant that the Declaration itself took on a religious cast. Amazon.com: These Truths: A History of the United States ... These Truths sets out first to remind people how the United States got its start. The "truths," as Thomas Jefferson called them, were political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. But Lepore also notes that history is a form of inquiry, something to be questioned, discussed, disputed.

America In 900 Pages: 'These Truths' Packs Centuries-Long ... "These Truths: A History of the United States," by Jill Lepore. (Robin Lubbock/WBUR) Over the course of her career, historian Jill Lepore has focused on specific moments in the American story, like King Philip's War, or on unsung characters like Benjamin Franklin's sister Jane. 'These Truths' takes a deep look at the relative success ... "We hold these truths to be self-evident," Lepore writes about the nation at the turn of the 20th century. "A century and a half after the nation's birth, every word of its founding statement had been questioned. As the News Cycle Lurches, Jill Lepore Offers a Long ... Which isn't to say 'These Truths' is an update of 'A People's History of the United States,' Howard Zinn's

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radically revisionist book from 1980. Yes, Lepore pays heed to Frederick Douglass and Cesar Chavez and the African-American lawyer and civil rights activist Pauli Murray, among others.

Casey Cep reviews "These Truths: A History of the United ... In These Truths there are no heroes or villains, only Americans. But the book is more than a collection of profiles in chronological order; Lepore considers ideas as much as individuals. But the book is more than a collection of profiles in chronological order; Lepore considers ideas as much as individuals.

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