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**A S P I R E H I G H E R**

684 South University Avenue, St. George, UT 84770 435-7733-3766  
[www.ascentadvantageacademy.com](http://www.ascentadvantageacademy.com) [aaafaculty@gmail.com](mailto:aaafaculty@gmail.com)

# History 11: Readings in American History

Text Selection & Course Content Compiled by Mary C. Kessler, Curriculum Director  
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This is a somewhat self-directed course on the home school level. In our online school and classrooms it is managed as a "Great Books" class where students are assigned to read a certain portion, and then discuss it with the aide of an instructor or class mentor.

## Objective:

- Examining the Foundations and then the current state of American society with a view to how to bring it back in correct focus.

## Method:

- Reading, absorbing, and discussing the following texts.
- Journaling

## Schedule:

- Part One: Reviewing the Foundations – 531 pages; 8 weeks.
  - *America's Providential History with Biblical Principles of Education, Government, Politics, Economics and Family Life (Revised and Expanded Version)*, 2020 - \$24.95 at Amazon.com

## From the Amazon Review:

Discover why many historians consider the Bible America's founding document. Learn how God's presence was evident at our nation's founding in the men who fought for independence and shaped the Constitution. Beginning with ancient history, the book presents a

providential view of significant events leading to the establishment of America. Examines the Reformation, the Pilgrims, the role of the clergy and church, the Christian foundations of education and economics, and the development of liberty. Cites primary source documents that show our nation grew from Christian principles and reveals how to bring them back into the nation today. Numerous illustrations, portraits, and visual aids make this book a valuable resource. The Conservative Book Club says: "This volume seems destined to become one of the best selling Christian books of our time." This revised and expanded edition contains two new chapters and much additional information not in the original version.

- *America's Providential History – A Source Book*, \$17.95 new; as low as \$12.80 used at amazon.com

From the Amazon Review:

This book of historical writings expands ideas introduced in America's Providential History. Reading primary source materials is the best way to learn of the faith and worldview of America's founders. These writings show how the Founders had a Christian philosophy of government, they understood the divine purpose of civil government, and they knew that government begins internally in the heart of man with the ability to govern his own life. Over 25 selections including: Columbus' Christian Character and Divine Mission; The Siege of Leyden, Holland (1574) by John Motley; The Fast and Thanksgiving Days of New England; Christianity the Key to the Character and Career of Washington; Election Day in Early America; Letter To A Young Gentleman Commencing His Education by Noah Webster; Letters of John Quincy Adams to His Son on the Bible and Its Teachings.

- *America's Providential History Teacher's Guide*, \$15.95
- Part Two: Divine Interposition, Remembering Who We Are  
12 weeks, 848 pages
  - *The American Miracle: Divine Providence in the Rise of the Republic*, Michael Medved, \$18.00 new; \$3.21 & up used.

From the Amazon Review:

Bestselling author and radio host Michael Medved recounts some of the most significant events in America's rise to prosperity and power, from the writing of the Constitution to the Civil War. He reveals a record of

improbabilities and amazements that demonstrate what the Founders always believed: that events unfolded according to a master plan, with destiny playing an unmistakable role in lifting the nation to greatness.

Among the stirring, illogical episodes described here:

- A band of desperate religious refugees find themselves blown hopelessly off course, only to be deposited at the one spot on a wild continent best suited for their survival
- George Washington's beaten army, surrounded by a ruthless foe and on the verge of annihilation, manages an impossible escape due to a freakish change in the weather
- A famous conqueror known for seizing territory, frustrated by a slave rebellion and a frozen harbor, impulsively hands Thomas Jefferson a tract of land that doubles the size of the United States
- A weary soldier picks up three cigars left behind in an open field and notices the stogies have been wrapped in a handwritten description of the enemy's secret battle plans—a revelation that gives Lincoln the supernatural sign he's awaited in order to free the slaves

When millions worry over the nation losing its way, Medved's sweeping narrative, bursting with dramatic events and lively portraits of unforgettable, occasionally little-known characters, affirms America as "fortune's favorite," shaped by a distinctive destiny from our beginnings to the present day.

- *God's Hand on America: Divine Providence in the Modern Era*, Michael Medved, \$10.43 paperback at amazon.com

From the Amazon Review:

Has God withdrawn his special blessing from the United States? Americans ponder that painful question in troubled times, as we did during the devastation of the Civil War and after the assassinations of the '60s, and as we do in our present polarization. Yet somehow—on battlefields, across western wilderness, and in raucous convention halls—astounding events have reliably advanced America, restoring faith in the Republic's providential protection.

In this provocative historical narrative, Michael Medved brings to life ten haunting tales that reveal this purposeful pattern, including:

- A near-fatal carriage accident forces Lincoln's secretary of state into a canvas-and-steel neck brace that protects him from a would-be assassin's knife thrusts, allowing him two years later to acquire Alaska for the United States.

- A sudden tidal wave of Russian Jewish immigration, beginning in 1881, coincides with America's rise to world leadership, fulfilling a biblical promise that those blessing Abraham's children will themselves be blessed.
- Campaigning for president, Theodore Roosevelt takes a bullet in the chest, but a folded speech in his jacket pocket slows its progress and saves his life.
- At the Battle of Midway, U.S. planes get lost over empty ocean and then miraculously reconnect for five minutes of dive-bombing that wrecks Japan's fleet, convincing even enemy commanders that higher powers intervened against them.
- A behind-the-scenes "conspiracy of the pure of heart" by Democratic leaders forces a gravely ill FDR to replace his sitting vice president—an unstable Stalinist—with future White House great Harry Truman.

These and other little-known stories build on themes of *The American Miracle*, Medved's bestseller about America's remarkable rise. The confident heroes and stubborn misfits in these pages shared a common faith in a master plan, which continues to unfold in our time. *God's Hand on America* confirms that the founders were right about America's destiny to lead and enlighten the world.

- Part Three: Recognizing Where We Are - 6 Weeks - 408 pages
  - *Our Lost Declaration: America's Fight Against Tyranny from King George to the Deep State*, Mike Lee, \$12.60 new; \$2.00 & up used at amazon.com

From the Amazon Review:

*New York Times* bestselling author and committed constitutional conservative Senator Mike Lee reveals the little-known stories behind the Founder's take down of a tyrannical king and the forgotten document that created America.

There is perhaps no more powerful sentence in human history, written in Philadelphia in the oppressively hot summer of 1776: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Despite the earth-shattering power of Jefferson's simple sentence and the document in which it is found, many Americans today don't understand or appreciate the Declaration's gravity. As a result, we have

lost touch with much of what makes our country so special: the distinctly American belief in the dignity of every human soul.

Our nation was born in an act of rebellion against an all-powerful government. In *Our Lost Declaration*, Senator Mike Lee tells the dramatic, little-known stories of the offenses committed by the British crown against its own subjects. From London's attempts to shut down colonial legislatures to hauling John Hancock before a court without a jury, the abuses of a strong central government were felt far and wide. They spurred our Founders to risk their lives in defense of their rights, and their efforts established a vision of political freedom that would change the course of history.

Lee shares new insights into the personalities who shaped that vision, such as:

- Thomas Paine, a populist radical who nearly died making his voyage from Great Britain to the colonies before writing his revolutionary pamphlet, *Common Sense*.
- Edmund Randolph, who defied his Loyalist family and served in the Virginia convention that voted for independence
- Thomas Jefferson, who persevered through a debilitating health crisis to pen the document that would officially begin the American experiment.

Senator Lee makes vividly clear how many abuses of federal power today are rooted in neglect of the Declaration, including federal overreach that corrupts state legislatures, the judicial system, and even international trade. By rediscovering the Declaration, we can remind our leaders in Washington D.C. that they serve us--not the other way around.

- *Our Lost Constitution: The Willful Subversion of America's Founding Document*, Mike Lee, \$11.99 new; \$1.35 & up used at amazon.com

From the Amazon Review:

In *Our Lost Constitution*, Senator Mike Lee tells the dramatic, little-known stories behind six of the Constitution's most indispensable provisions. He shows their rise. He shows their fall. And he makes vividly clear how nearly every abuse of federal power today is rooted in neglect of this Lost Constitution. For example:

- The Origination Clause says that all bills to raise taxes must originate in the House of Representatives, but contempt for the clause ensured the passage of Obamacare.

- The Fourth Amendment protects us against unreasonable searches and seizures, but the NSA now collects our private data without a warrant.
- The Legislative Powers Clause means that only Congress can pass laws, but unelected agencies now produce ninety-nine out of every one hundred pages of legal rules imposed on the American people. Lee's cast of characters includes a former Ku Klux Klansman, who hijacked the Establishment Clause to strangle Catholic schools; the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who called the Second Amendment a fraud; and the revered president who began his first of four terms by threatening to shatter the balance of power between Congress and the president, and who began his second term by vowing to do the same to the Supreme Court.

Fortunately, the Constitution has always had its defenders. Senator Lee tells the story of how Andrew Jackson, noted for his courage in duels and politics, stood firm against the unconstitutional expansion of federal powers. He brings to life Ben Franklin's genius for compromise at a deeply divided constitutional convention. And he tells how in 2008, a couple of unlikely challengers persuaded the Supreme Court to rediscover the Second Amendment's right to keep and bear arms.

Sections of the Constitution may have been forgotten, but it's not too late to bring them back—if only we remember why we once demanded them and how we later lost them. Drawing on his experience working in all three branches of government, Senator Lee makes a bold case for resurrecting the Lost Constitution to restore and defend our fundamental liberties.

- Part Four: Facing the Problems & the Solutions – 532 pages, 8 weeks
  - *United States of Socialism: Who's Behind it. Why It's Evil. How to Stop It*, Dinesh S'Souza, \$14.99 new; \$2,82 & up used.

From the Amazon Review:

In this path breaking book, bestselling author Dinesh D'Souza argues that the socialism advanced today by the likes of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Bernie Sanders, Ilhan Omar and Elizabeth Warren is very different from the socialism of Lenin, Mao and Castro. It is "identity socialism," a marriage between classic socialism and identity politics. Today's socialists claim to model themselves not on Mao's Great Leap Forward or even Venezuelan socialism but rather on the "socialism that works" in Scandinavian countries like Norway and Sweden.

This is the new face of socialism that D'Souza confronts and decisively refutes with his trademark incisiveness, wit and originality. He shows how

socialism abandoned the working class and found new recruits by drawing on the resentments of race, gender and sexual orientation. He reveals how it uses the Venezuelan, not the Scandinavian, formula. D'Souza chillingly documents the full range of lawless, gangster, and authoritarian tendencies that they have adopted.

*United States of Socialism* is an informative, provocative and thrilling exposé not merely of the ideas but also the tactics of the socialist Left. In making the moral case for entrepreneurs and the free market, the author portrays President Trump as the exemplar of capitalism and also the most effective political leader of the battle against socialism. He shows how we can help Trump defeat the socialist menace.

- *American Marxism*, Mark R. Levin, \$14.00 new; \$9.31 & up used at amazon.com.

From the Amazon review:

In 2009, Mark R. Levin galvanized conservatives with his unforgettable manifesto *Liberty and Tyranny*, by providing a philosophical, historical, and practical framework for halting the liberal assault on Constitution-based values. That book was about standing at the precipice of progressivism's threat to our freedom and now, over a decade later, we're fully over that precipice and paying the price.

In *American Marxism*, Levin explains how the core elements of Marxist ideology are now pervasive in American society and culture—from our schools, the press, and corporations, to Hollywood, the Democratic Party, and the Biden presidency—and how it is often cloaked in deceptive labels like "progressivism," "democratic socialism," "social activism," and more. With his characteristic trenchant analysis, Levin digs into the psychology and tactics of these movements, the widespread brainwashing of students, the anti-American purposes of Critical Race Theory and the Green New Deal, and the escalation of repression and censorship to silence opposing voices and enforce conformity. Levin exposes many of the institutions, intellectuals, scholars, and activists who are leading this revolution, and provides us with some answers and ideas on how to confront them.

As Levin writes: "The counter-revolution to the American Revolution is in full force. And it can no longer be dismissed or ignored for it is devouring our society and culture, swirling around our everyday lives, and ubiquitous in our politics, schools, media, and entertainment." And, like before, Levin seeks to rally the American people to defend their liberty.

- Part Five: Putting It All Together – Determining Our Path  
Discussion – 2 Weeks
  - Turn-in Journal(s) for grading. Notes should be insightful and prolific.