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# The Smart Aleck's Guide To American History



## Synopsis

Do you know America? No, I mean, do you REALLY know America? Would you recognize John Adams in a lineup? Can you identify any presidents between Lincoln and Roosevelt? Hmmm. I thought so. Well, you really need this book. Not only will it improve your sorry historical knowledge, it will crack you up, and give you material to throw your teachers off-balance for entire class periods. Identify their lies! Point out their half-truths! And possibly, just possibly, gain some extra credit for yourself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up  
In the style of acclaimed writers Jon Stewart (The Daily Show) and Steven Colbert (The Colbert Report), this witty, comedic, and appealing volume abandons the world of historical dates and battles to fill in some of the gaps in young Americans' knowledge of their country's history. Readers learn of General Washington's rebellion against the "basic rules of boating safety" as well as encounter James K. Polk's mullet ("Business up front, party in the back, baby.") while benefiting greatly from the book's efficient presentation of pivotal themes and events such as the American Revolution, Civil War, and Civil Rights Movement. This clever and informative work follows a chronological arrangement from early exploration to the inauguration of President Barack Obama in January 2009. Each chapter concludes with a "Some of the Stuff We Missed" section, essay questions such as "Who was the bigger jerk, Hitler or Stalin?"

Adam Selzer is the author of *How to Get Suspended and Influence People*. He grew up in the

suburbs of Des Moines and now lives in downtown Chicago, where he can write in a different coffee shop every day without even leaving his neighborhood. In addition to his work as a tour guide and assistant ghostbuster (really), he moonlights as a rock star. Check him out on the Web at [www.adamselzer.com](http://www.adamselzer.com).

Excellent read. I bought it to give to my 13 year old grandson who's really into history and both my husband and I read it before we gift wrapped it for him! Makes American history much more interesting and real. We loved the end of chapter tests and the "what would your life have been like if you had lived then" sections. Must reading for anyone taking American history classes!

I have always loved American History and have read biographies of the founding fathers, the last autobiography I read was Decision Points by our 41st President, which was excellent. But, I know there are some young people who just do what they have to do to get through American History. This book has real facts and is just funny and makes history something you can remember and laugh about it. It is very entertaining and fun, and you learn a whole lot!

I would give this 5 stars-very clever writing-but you have to know about history in order to understand some of the sarcasm and jokes so its not for those who want to learn. I already know most of this so the humor is entertaining. Read the sample before you buy to see if it is right for you.

Bought it as a holiday gift for my boyfriend's dad, who is a high school history teacher. It's a great gift for any history buff who has a sense of humor or is a smart aleck! The book is cleverly written and hilarious but still informational. He loved it---even started reading it right then and there!

Love the humor!

History is very much of interest to me as try to become more acquainted with pieces of history that I am not familiar. It seems as time passes, what I have learned in the past has become fuzzy. I like having references that I can restore sections of history that I should have remembered from my time in school. Thanks for making this section of history available.

This is meant to be a rye look at some aspects of American history and it didn't disappoint in that aspect. It's very entertaining, it's a fast read. Would I recommend it to people? If the title attracts

you, then certainly since you more than likely enjoy this type of thing.

Funny book. Great to help my kids get a dose of humor with their history. Saw this at the Abraham Lincoln Museum bookstore. Bought it for much less on . Great book.

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