

Gary Gerstle

AMERICAN CRUCIBLE

RACE AND NATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Updated with a new chapter on the Age of Obama



American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century

Stephen J. Whitfield



American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century:

American Crucible Gary Gerstle, 2017-02-28 This sweeping history of twentieth century America follows the changing and often conflicting ideas about the fundamental nature of American society Is the United States a social melting pot as our civic creed warrants or is full citizenship somehow reserved for those who are white and of the right ancestry Gary Gerstle traces the forces of civic and racial nationalism arguing that both profoundly shaped our society After Theodore Roosevelt led his Rough Riders to victory during the Spanish American War he boasted of the diversity of his men s origins from the Kentucky backwoods to the Irish Italian and Jewish neighborhoods of northeastern cities Roosevelt s vision of a hybrid and superior American race strengthened by war would inspire the social diplomatic and economic policies of American liberals for decades And yet for all of its appeal to the civic principles of inclusion this liberal legacy was grounded in Anglo Saxon culture making it difficult in particular for Jews and Italians and especially for Asians and African Americans to gain acceptance Gerstle weaves a compelling story of events institutions and ideas that played on perceptions of ethnic racial difference from the world wars and the labor movement to the New Deal and Hollywood to the Cold War and the civil rights movement We witness the remnants of racial thinking among such liberals as FDR and LBJ we see how Italians and Jews from Frank Capra to the creators of Superman perpetuated the New Deal philosophy while suppressing their own ethnicity we feel the frustrations of African American servicemen denied the opportunity to fight for their country and the moral outrage of more recent black activists including Martin Luther King Jr Fannie Lou Hamer and Malcolm X Gerstle argues that the civil rights movement and Vietnam broke the liberal nation apart and his analysis of this upheaval leads him to assess Reagan s and Clinton s attempts to resurrect nationalism Can the United States ever live up to its civic creed For anyone who views racism as an aberration from the liberal premises of the republic this book is must reading Containing a new chapter that reconstructs and dissects the major struggles over race and nation in an era defined by the War on Terror and by the presidency of Barack Obama **American Crucible** is a must read for anyone who views racism as an aberration from the liberal premises of the republic

A True History of the United States Daniel A. Sjursen, 2021-06-01 Thought provoking a must read for everyone seeking a firm grasp of accurate American history Kirkus starred review Brilliant readable and raw Maj ret Danny Sjursen who served combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and later taught history at West Point delivers a true epic and the perfect companion to Howard Zinn s *A People s History of the United States* Sjursen shifts the lens and challenges readers to think critically and to apply common sense to their understanding of our nation s past and present so we can view history as never before **A True History of the United States** was inspired by a course that Sjursen taught to cadets at West Point his alma mater With chapter titles such as *Patriots or Insurgents* and *The Decade That Roared and Wept* **A True History** is accurate with respect to the facts and intellectually honest in its presentation and analysis Essential reading for every American with a conscience Meticulously researched Sjursen provides a more complete sense of history and encourages

readers to view our country objectively Sjursen's powerful storytelling reveals balanced portraits of key figures and the role they played Sjursen exposes the dominant historical narrative as at best myth and at times a lie He brings out from the shadows those who struggled often at the cost of their own lives for equality and justice Their stories so often ignored or trivialized give us examples of who we should emulate and who we must become Chris Hedges author of *Empire of Illusion* and *America The Farewell Tour*

A Companion to 20th-Century America Stephen J. Whitfield, 2008-04-15 A Companion to 20th Century America is an authoritative survey of the most important topics and themes of twentieth century American history and historiography Contains 29 original essays by leading scholars each assessing the past and current state of American scholarship Includes thematic essays covering topics such as religion ethnicity conservatism foreign policy and the media as well as essays covering major time periods Identifies and discusses the most influential literature in the field and suggests new avenues of research as the century has drawn to a close

Italians Then, Mexicans Now Joel Perlmann, 2005-11-17 According to the American dream hard work and a good education can lift people from poverty to success in the land of opportunity The unskilled immigrants who came to the United States from southern central and eastern Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries largely realized that vision Within a few generations their descendants rose to the middle class and beyond But can today's unskilled immigrant arrivals especially Mexicans the nation's most numerous immigrant group expect to achieve the same for their descendants Social scientists disagree on this question basing their arguments primarily on how well contemporary arrivals are faring In *Italians Then Mexicans Now* Joel Perlmann uses the latest immigration data as well as 100 years of historical census data to compare the progress of unskilled immigrants and their American born children both then and now The crucial difference between the immigrant experience a hundred years ago and today is that relatively well paid jobs were plentiful for workers with little education a hundred years ago while today's immigrants arrive in an increasingly unequal America Perlmann finds that while this change over time is real its impact has not been as strong as many scholars have argued In particular these changes have not been great enough to force today's Mexican second generation into an inner city underclass Perlmann emphasizes that high school dropout rates among second generation Mexicans are alarmingly high and are likely to have a strong impact on the group's well being Yet despite their high dropout rates Mexican Americans earn at least as much as African Americans and they fare better on social measures such as unwed childbearing and incarceration which often lead to economic hardship Perlmann concludes that inter generational progress though likely to be slower than it was for the European immigrants a century ago is a reality and could be enhanced if policy interventions are taken to boost high school graduation rates for Mexican children Rich with historical data *Italians Then Mexicans Now* persuasively argues that today's Mexican immigrants are making slow but steady socio economic progress and may one day reach parity with earlier immigrant groups who moved up into the heart of the American middle class Copublished with the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

Reconsidering Regions in an

Era of New Nationalism Alex Finkelstein, Anne F. Hyde, 2023-11 Regions connect and divide us even as global economies weather and germs batter us Historians literary scholars and social scientists use region to ground and challenge ideas about national belonging In *Reconsidering Regions in an Era of New Nationalism* Alexander Finkelstein and Anne F Hyde have assembled leading scholars of regionalism to discuss the relationship of region to nation The contributors explore how historical forces have changed regional associations and how regional associations have changed culture and history The themes of culture space and institutions organize this volume contributors historicize how race and racial thinking have evolved as a major force to define region and nation over time the essays raise questions about the stability and validity of canonical regions in U S history to find new complexity in how these blocs form and how they understand themselves and they focus on historicist and conjunctural trends and how institutions and ordinary people shape regional identities through politics and cultural change throughout history Challenging ideas about both national belonging and local association the contributors emphasize how regional analysis deepens understanding of migration race borders infrastructure climate and Native sovereignty

Fascism Brian E. Fogarty, 2009-10 A cautionary examination of America s ongoing risk of fascism

The Great Depression and New Deal Eric Rauchway, 2008-03-10 The Great Depression forced the United States to adopt policies at odds with its political traditions This title looks at the background to the Depression its social impact and at the various governmental attempts to deal with the crisis

When Good Government Meant Big Government Jesse Tarbert, 2022-02-22 The years after World War I have often been seen as an era when Republican presidents and business leaders brought the growth of government in the United States to a sudden and emphatic halt In *When Good Government Meant Big Government* the historian Jesse Tarbert inverts the traditional story by revealing a forgotten effort by business allied reformers to expand federal power and how that effort was foiled by Southern Democrats and their political allies Tarbert traces how a loose knit coalition of corporate lawyers bankers executives genteel reformers and philanthropists emerged as the leading proponents of central control and national authority in government during the 1910s and 1920s Motivated by principles of good government and using large national corporations as a model these elite reformers sought to transform the federal government s ineffectual executive branch into a modern organization with the capacity to solve national problems They achieved some success during the presidency of Warren G Harding but the elite reformers support for federal antilynching legislation confirmed the worries of white Southerners who feared that federal power would pose a threat to white supremacy Working with others who shared their preference for local control of public administration Southern Democrats led a backlash that blocked enactment of the elite reformers broader vision for a responsive and responsible national government Offering a novel perspective on politics and policy in the years before the New Deal this book sheds new light on the roots of the modern American state and uncovers a crucial episode in the long history of racist and antigovernment forces in American life

United States Foreign Policy and National Identity in the 21st Century

Kenneth Christie, 2009 Examines the complex relationship between United States foreign policy and American national identity as it has changed from the post cold war period through the defining moment of 9 11 and into the 21st century Starting with a discussion of notions of American identity in an historical sense the contributors go on to examine the most central issues in US foreign policy and their impact on national identity including the end of the Cold War the rise of neo conservatism ideas of US Empire and the influence of the War on Terror The book sheds significant new light on the continuities and discontinuities in the relationship of US identity to foreign policy **A Contest of Ideas** Nelson Lichtenstein, 2012-09-30 For more than thirty years Nelson Lichtenstein has deployed his scholarship on labor politics and social thought to chart the history and prospects of a progressive America A Contest of Ideas collects and updates many of Lichtenstein s most provocative and controversial essays and reviews These incisive writings link the fate of the labor movement to the transformations in the shape of world capitalism to the rise of the civil rights movement and to the activists and intellectuals who have played such important roles Tracing broad patterns of political thought Lichtenstein offers important perspectives on the relationship of labor and the state the tensions that sometimes exist between a culture of rights and the idea of solidarity and the rise of conservatism in politics law and intellectual life The volume closes with portraits of five activist intellectuals whose work has been vital to the conflicts that engage the labor movement public policy and political culture

Uncover the mysteries within Crafted by is enigmatic creation, Discover the Intrigue in **American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century** . This downloadable ebook, shrouded in suspense, is available in a PDF format (*). Dive into a world of uncertainty and anticipation. Download now to unravel the secrets hidden within the pages.

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Table of Contents American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century

1. Understanding the eBook American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - The Rise of Digital Reading American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century User Reviews and Ratings
 - American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century Free and Paid eBooks
 - American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century Public Domain eBooks
 - American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century eBook Subscription Services
 - American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century eBook Formats

- ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
- American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century Compatibility with Devices
- American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Interactive Elements American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
- 8. Staying Engaged with American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Setting Reading Goals American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of American Crucible Race Nation In The 20th Century
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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