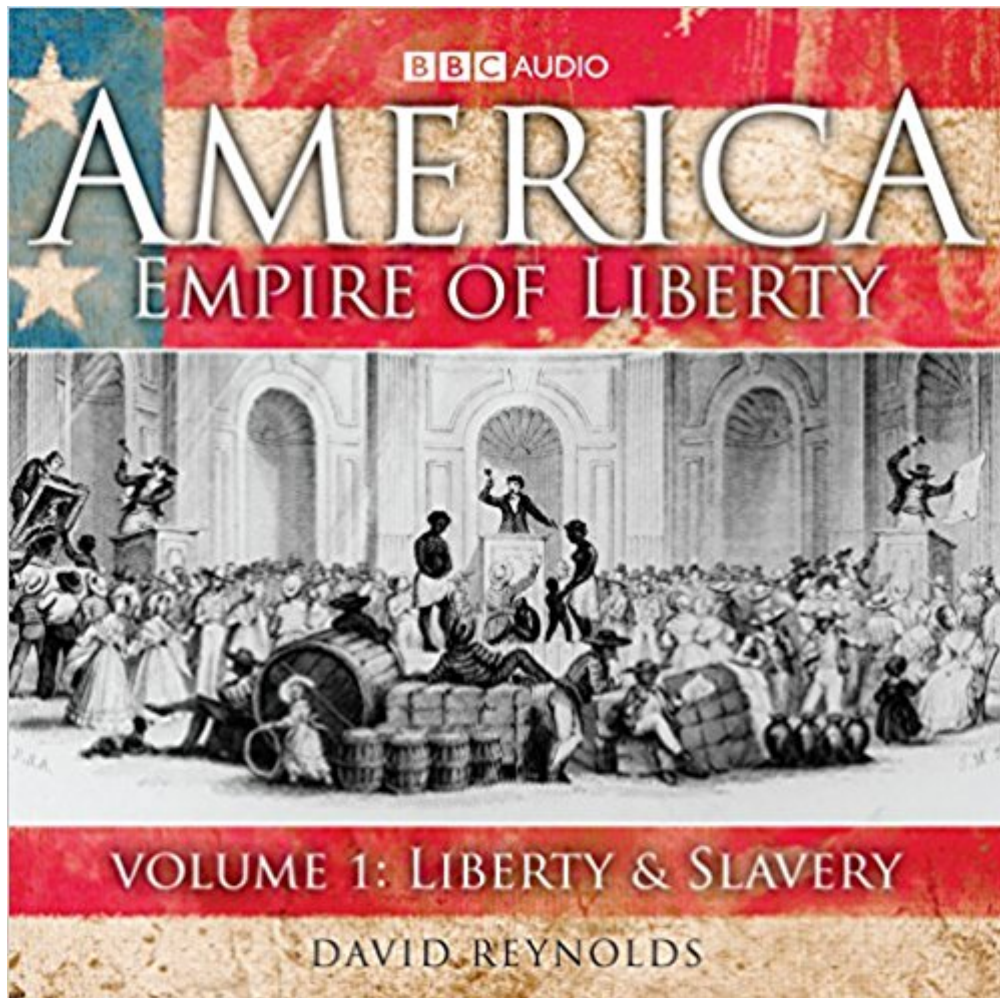




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America: Empire Of Liberty: Volume 1: Liberty & Slavery



Synopsis

This epic narrative tells America's story through the voices of those who lived it "Presidents and farmers, mothers and children, settlers and soldiers, slaves and Native Americans. The series celebrates the country's achievements but also examines its paradoxes by investigating three abiding themes of American life: empire, liberty, and faith. These first 30 episodes start with the Native Americans, who arrived from Asia around 15,000 years ago. In a fascinating journey that takes in the impact of Columbus, the founding of Puritan New England, the Declaration of Independence, the slave trade, and the forced relocation of the Indians, Reynolds shows how the U.S. expanded to cover a whole continent, laying the foundations of a superpower "if the country could stay united. And that seemed a big "if" in 1861 as the conflicts over liberty and slavery brought America to the brink of Civil War. 6 CDs. 7 hrs 30 mins.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Reynolds's presentation combines enthusiasm with authority, and his insightful and far-ranging text is augmented by a wealth of archive voices, from speeches to people in the street" Oldie "Reynolds' vigorous presentation of his sweep of American history, and the interwoven voices and news reports of the time, make for striking immediacy" Observer "Auntie's latest Radio 4 history series (this is volume 1, up to 1860) may well topple my all-time favourite, This Sceptred Isle, from its so far unchallenged number one spot... A seriously major production." -- Sue Arnold The Guardian

David Reynolds is a Professor of International History at Cambridge University, and a Fellow of

Christ's College. He was awarded the Wolfson Prize for History in 2004, and elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2005. He has written and presented several history films for the BBC – among them the 2008 series *Summits*. He is the author of *America, Empire of Liberty*, his book linked to the BBC Radio 4 series.

Got what I paid for.

Great!

This very rapid and not particularly insightful trip through our nation's history seems to be a story without a theme. There is much to anticipate in this book. The author is British and teaches history at Cambridge. He also has won the prestigious Wolfson prize, awarded annually for the best history book in the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, this book tackles a huge, complex subject, the broad sweep of American history, and recites events familiar to the casual student of our history without any novel insights or themes. The Revolution is dismissed in four pages, the Civil War in ten, World War I is hardly discussed and the victory is awarded to the British forces, stalemated until the American Expeditionary Forces were injected into the War in 1917, and World War II is finished in five pages. It is difficult, indeed, to say anything meaningful or novel about these monumental pivot points in American history in such a short space. I am all for brevity but this is brevity brought to the border of superficiality. History written to illuminate a particular theme can be absorbing and challenging. Frequently, it can shape new ideas about what were previously known facts. This is what I had expected from this book but there is little of this here. We know that Americans are religious, hard-working, lovers of liberty, and relatively young. Each of these is discussed briefly without any new conclusions. But our tour guide presents a breezy and fast-moving review of American history. I had been looking for something more than a review: I wanted fresh insights and a different slant. Sadly, *America, Empire of Liberty* disappoints in this.

Those who are well read students in the history of the Republic won't find much new in this single volume overview, but it serves its purpose as such: a single volume for readers needing a refresher on the nation's history; and younger people who would be better served by a readable, near-comprehensive narrative history than some of the history books written now focusing more on social analysis, etc. than the story.

Great boook, superfast delivery, and book was NOT as described....it was better!!!!!!!, it was literally BRAND NEW, no damage, no water stains, no increase, absolutely nothing but Perfection

I didn't struggle with zoning out as much as with other history books! That's quite something.

First rate scholarship and written in an a page turner readable popular style, Reynolds stands beside Zinn and Huberman as the historians who are today's must reads. The American myths that we we were taught in school give way to a better and more accurate presentation of Empire Sprawl as we conquered a continent.

This is an excellent narrative overview of American history from the beginnings to late 2008. The author covers a lot of ground but gives more emphasis to the 20th century as major events and cultural movements then shaped America today. He weaves his narrative together with three themes: empire, liberty and faith. The book explores how the American people shaped their story and confronted the paradoxes inherent in these three themes. As the author admitted, this is written from an outsider's perspective. While the book does cover native americans, sexual revolution, civil rights, etc., it does not pay homage to the liberal agenda. Some reviewers complain that this constitutes a bias towards "landed white guys". Actually this is part of the outsider's perspective. The narrative of American history has been dominated by the liberal establishment since the culture wars of the 1990s. I find it refreshing to read a history book that actually focuses on history rather than political correctness.

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