In just four books

249
overlooked
FACTUAL ERRORS

You would think that after major publishers, a state textbook committee, and an $80,000 Texas Tech review team had "carefully checked" four high school U.S. History books submitted for Texas approval, they would have found most of their factual errors ... but you would be wrong.

After Texas' Education Commissioner issued his Report on Correction of Factual Errors, we sent the Texas Education Agency a list of 249 remaining mistakes in those four books, for correction in the final Texas editions. Among the overlooked blunders were:

"1848 The Mexican War ends; U.S. gains Texas, New Mexico, and California." — America: Pathways to the Present — Modern American History (Prentice, 2003), p. 105, time line

"Fifteenth Amendment Constitutional amendment ... that guaranteed voting rights to all citizens" — America: Pathways to the Present — Modern American History (Prentice, 2003), p. 980, col. 1

"The Fourteenth Amendment ... extended the right to vote to all 21-year-old males, including former slaves." — The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century (McDougal, 2003), p. 724, lower right, "1868 THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT," par. 2

"1492 Columbus first reaches North America." — The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century (McDougal, 2003), p. 3, time line

"1754 Politics American colonists adopt the Albany Plan of Union." — American Nation in the Modern Era (Holb, 2003), p. 3, time line

"1877 (Glencoe, 2003), p. 167, col. 1, par. 1, line 11


"[William H.] Seward had some trouble persuading the House of Representatives to approve the [Alaska Purchase] treaty." — The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century (McDougal, 2003), p. 344, par. 2, lines 3-4

"Relations worsened [in 1945, as the Cold War began] after Stalin learned that the United States had kept its development of the atomic bomb secret." — The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century (McDougal, 2003), p. 603, par. 2, lines 16-20

Wrong result
The U.S. did not gain Texas as a result of the Mexican War. Texas was annexed in 1845, before that War began. The text itself admits this on p. 136, par. 2, lines 3-6; and on p. 149, map.

Wrong provision
The 15th Amendment did not guarantee suffrage to all citizens. It omitted women, making the 19th Amendment necessary.

Wrong narrative
U.S. development of the atomic bomb was no secret to Stalin. The Venona cables show he knew of it by 1941, and that Soviet spies kept close watch on it thereafter.

Wrong body
The Senate, not the House, approves treaties.

Wrong event
The Albany Congress proposed the Albany Plan of Union, but no colony ever ratified it, so it was never adopted.

Wrong place
Seward did not send U.S. troops to Mexico. He sent them to the U.S. Rio Grande border with Mexico. The text itself admits this on p. 354, par. 2, lines 2-4.

Wrong narrative
English fireships outmaneuvered the Spanish fleet, setting some of their galleons on fire.

Wrong itinerary
Columbus never reached North America. He explored Caribbean islands and the northern coast of South America. The text itself admits this on p. 17, map.

Wrong outcome
The British did not surrender after the Battle of New Orleans. They withdrew.

Wrong amendment
The 15th Amendment, not the 14th, gave black males the right to vote. (The 14th Amendment gave states a choice: either let black males vote, or lose congressional representation proportionately.)
"James Monroe was the last president to have fought in the Revolutionary War."
par. 1, lines 1-2

"The Tenure of Office Act ... took away the President’s constitutional powers as commander in chief of the armed forces."
— America: Pathways to the Present — Modern American History (Prentice, 2003), p. 121, par. 4, lines 4-6

"The following year [1818], the two countries agreed to extend the northern border of the United States westward along 49° N latitude from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains."
— America: Pathways to the Present — Modern American History (Prentice, 2003), p. 121, par. 4, lines 4-6

"Economic troubles during the 1930s contributed to the rise of dictatorships in Germany, Italy, and Japan."

"In 1688 the English Parliament removed King James II from the throne."
— The American Republic Since 1877 (Glencoe, 2003), p. 740, col. 2, par. 1, lines 1-2

"In 1842 Webster-Ashburton Treaty established the boundary between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods."
— American Nation in the Modern Era (Holt, 2003), p. 30, par. 2-3

"The Northwest Ordinance provided that the territory be divided into areas of 36 square miles."
— The American Republic Since 1877 (Glencoe, 2003), p. 104, "Geography Skills," no. 1

"Voting rights established by the Articles of Confederation were similarly restricted."
— The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century (McDougal, 2003), p. 104, par. 1, lines 4-5

"The Second Continental Congress printed paper money during the Revolutionary War, not after it. By 1781 (before the war ended its Continental bills were already trash. Shays' Rebellion (1786-87) protested deflation, not inflation."

"In 1940 the Japanese army occupied all of French Indochina, the Philippines, Malaya, and Indonesia."
— American Nation in the Modern Era (Holt, 2003), p. 707, par. 2, lines 3-4

"In 1940 the Japanese did not occupy any of the Philippines, Malaya, or Indonesia in 1940. They did not invade the Philippines and Malaya until December 1941, and Indonesia not until January 1942. The text itself indicates (p. 522, map) that Japan did not control the Philippines or Malaya on December 7, 1941.

"Early in Grant's second term, a scandal emerged involving the Credit Mobilier Company."

"The Credit Mobilier scandal emerged late in Grant's first term, not early in his second. The text itself admits this on p. 291, par. 7, lines 3-4. The New York press broke the story on September 4, 1872. The House censured Oakes Ames and James Brooks on February 27, 1873. Grant's second term began on March 4, 1873.

"After the [Revolutionary] war, the nation faced serious financial problems. Congress desperately needed cash to pay its war debts. ... Congress responded by printing paper money. The financial consequences proved disastrous. These bills of credit, called Continentals, were not backed by gold or silver. Thus, merchants and lenders refused to accept them at face value."
— American Nation in the Modern Era (Holt, 2003), p. 30, par. 2-3

"Before the [Civil] war, greenbacks were redeemable for either gold or silver coins."
— American Nation in the Modern Era (Holt, 2003), p. 262, par. 3, line 1

"The Judiciary Act of 1789 provided for a Supreme Court ...."

"The Judiciary Act of 1789 a law that established ... the Supreme Court ...."
— The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century (McDougal, 2003), p. 74, par. 5, lines 2-3; and p. 859, col. 2

"The 1789 Judiciary Act did not "provide for" or "establish" the Supreme Court. Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution did that. The text itself admits this on p. 93, top right margin, "More About ... Federal Courts," lines 1-2. The Act did set the number of associate Supreme Court justices at 5.

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"Wrong president
Andrew Jackson, not James Monroe, was the last president to have fought in the American Revolution."

"Wrong ordinance
The Land Ordinance of 1785, not the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, divided the Old Northwest into 36-square mile townships. The text itself admits this on p. 104, col. 2, par. 1, lines 1-2.

"Wrong description
The Articles of Confederation said nothing about voting rights. Each state wrote its own suffrage law.

"Wrong chronology
Economic troubles in the 1930s had nothing to do with the rise of Musso-
lini, who came to power in Italy in 1922.

"Wrong chronology
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"Wrong law
The Command of the Armies Act, not the Tenure of Office Act, deprived Andrew Johnson of his powers as commander in chief."

"Wrong lake
This Convention of 1818 set the U.S.-Canadian border from Lake of the Woods to the Rockies, not from Lake Superior to the Rockies. The 1842 Webster-Ashburton Treaty established the boundary between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods."

"Wrong chronology
There were no greenbacks before the Civil War. They originated in the 1862 Legal Tender Act, during the Civil War."

"Wrong provision
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"Wrong narrative
Parliament did not remove James II. It declared the throne vacant, after James abdicated by fleeing the country."

"Wrong chronology
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