

IDEAS THAT SHAPE A NATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction: A History Worth Studying 1

PART 1: A FOUNDATION FOR A NEW NATION

1. **Aristotle** 5
In framing an ideal we may assume what we wish, but should avoid impossibilities.
2. **Thomas Hobbes** 15
Covenants without the sword are but words.
3. **John Locke** 25
The liberty of man . . . is to be under no other legislative power, but that established, by consent, in the commonwealth.
4. **Jean Jacques Rousseau** 35
[The people] have given themselves leaders in order to defend their liberty and not to enslave themselves.
5. **New England Puritans** 45
We shall be as a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us.
6. **Roger Williams** 55
The civil state is bound before God to take off that bond and yoke of soul oppression, and to proclaim free and impartial liberty to all people.

PART 2: BUILDING A NATION

7. **Thomas Paine** 67
There is something exceedingly ridiculous in the composition of monarchy.
8. **The Federalist** 77
If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.
9. **The Anti-Federalists** 87
What right had they to say, "We the People"? . . . instead of "We the States"?
10. **George Washington** 97
I am sure the mass of citizens in these United States mean well, and I firmly believe they will always act well, whenever they can obtain a right understanding of matters.

- 11. James Madison** 107
In a large Society, the people are broken into so many interests and parties, that a common sentiment is less likely to be felt . . . by a majority of the whole.
- 12. Thomas Jefferson** 117
If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.
- 13. Alexander Hamilton** 127
The voice of the people has been said to be the voice of God; and however generally this maxim has been quoted and believed, it is not true in fact. The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right.
- 14. John Marshall** 137
The peculiar circumstances of the moment may render a measure more or less wise, but cannot render it more or less constitutional.

PART 3: EQUALITY AND THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY

- 15. Alexis de Tocqueville** 149
Americans are so enamored of equality that they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom.
- 16. Henry David Thoreau** 159
A government in which the majority rule in all cases cannot be based on justice.
- 17. Elizabeth Cady Stanton** 169
We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal.
- 18. John C. Calhoun** 179
When not efficiently checked, [the government of the absolute majority] is the most tyrannical and oppressive that can be devised.
- 19. Frederick Douglass** 189
Right is of no sex—truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all and we are all brethren.

PART 4: A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM

- 20. Abraham Lincoln** 201
Its authors meant [the Declaration of Independence] to be . . . a stumbling block to those who . . . might seek to turn a free people back into the hateful paths of despotism.

PART 5: THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

21. **Adam Smith** 213
Every man, as long as he does not violate the laws of justice, is left perfectly free to pursue his own interest in his own way.
22. **Karl Marx** 223
The rich will do everything for the poor except get off their backs.
23. **William Graham Sumner** 233
The aggregation of large fortunes is not at all a thing to be regretted.
24. **Henry George** 243
We must make land common property.
25. **Thorstein Veblen** 253
It is for this [leisure] class to determine, in general outline, what scheme of life the community shall accept as decent or honorific.
26. **Eugene Debs** 263
The working class must get rid of the whole brood of masters and exploiters, and put themselves in possession and control of the means of production.

PART 6: THE END OF THE FRONTIER

27. **Frederick Jackson Turner** 275
The advance of the frontier has meant a steady movement away from the influence of Europe, a steady growth of independence on American lines.

PART 7: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

28. **Woodrow Wilson** 287
Big business is not dangerous because it is big, but because its bigness is an unwholesome inflation created by privileges and exemptions which it ought not to enjoy.
29. **Franklin Roosevelt** 297
The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.
30. **John Maynard Keynes** 307
The central controls necessary to ensure full employment will, of course, involve a large extension of the traditional functions of government.
31. **Ronald Reagan** 317
Government exists to protect us from each other. Where Government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves.

PART 8: A NEW SENSE OF JUSTICE

- 32. William O. Douglas** 329
A symbol of our health is the respect we show to First Amendment values.
- 33. Martin Luther King, Jr.** 339
[America] is a dream of a land where men of all races, of all nationalities and of all creeds can live together as brothers.
- 34. Malcolm X** 349
Nobody can give you freedom. Nobody can give you equality or justice or anything. If you're a man, you take it.
- 35. Betty Friedan** 359
Our culture does not permit women to accept or gratify their basic need to grow and fulfill their potentialities as human beings.
- 36. The American Indian** 369
We believe in the future of a greater America, an America which we were the first to love, where life liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will be a reality.
- 37. César Chávez** 379
If you're outraged at conditions, then you can't possibly be free or happy until you devote all your time to changing them and do nothing but that.

PART 9: PREPARING FOR A NEW ERA

- 38. Rachel Carson** 391
The most alarming of all man's assaults upon the environment is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea with dangerous and even lethal materials.
- 39. Alvin Toffler** 401
With intelligence and a modicum of luck—the emergent civilization can be made more sane, sensible, and sustainable, more decent and more democratic than any we have ever known.
- Glossary** 411
- Bibliography** 421