

ANNUAL EDITIONS

United States History

VOLUME 2—Reconstruction Through the Present

20th
Edition



1MCGRAW-HILL NOT FOR
RESALE DONATION ONLY 13AS2-1

ANNUAL EDITIONS

United States History

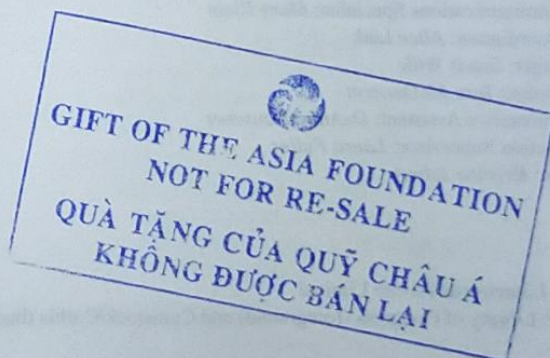
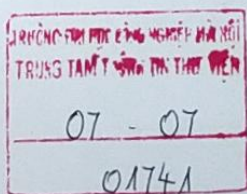
Volume 2—Through the Present Reconstruction
Twentieth Edition

EDITOR

Robert James Maddox (Emeritus)

*Pennsylvania State University
University Park*

Robert James Maddox, distinguished historian and professor emeritus of American history at Pennsylvania State University, received a BS from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1957, an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin in 1958, and a PhD from Rutgers in 1964. He has written, reviewed, and lectured extensively, and is widely respected for his interpretations of presidential character and policy.



Higher Education

Boston Burr Ridge, IL Dubuque, IA New York San Francisco St. Louis
Bangkok Bogotá Caracas Kuala Lumpur Lisbon London Madrid Mexico City
Milan Montreal New Delhi Santiago Seoul Singapore Sydney Taipei Toronto



ANNUAL EDITIONS: UNITED STATES HISTORY, VOLUME 2, TWENTIETH EDITION

Published by McGraw-Hill, a business unit of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. Copyright © 2009 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. Previous edition(s) 1987–2007. No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written consent of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., including, but not limited to, in any network or other electronic storage or transmission, or broadcast for distance learning.

Some ancillaries, including electronic and print components, may not be available to customers outside the United States.

Annual Editions® is a registered trademark of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Annual Editions is published by the **Contemporary Learning Series** group within the McGraw-Hill Higher Education division.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 QPD/QPD 0 9 8

ISBN 978-0-07-339762-7

MHID 0-07-339762-8

ISSN 0733-3560

Managing Editor: *Larry Loepke*
Senior Managing Editor: *Faye Schilling*
Developmental Editor: *Jade Benedict*
Editorial Assistant: *Nancy Meissner*
Production Service Assistant: *Rita Hingtgen*
Permissions Coordinator: *Shirley Lanners*
Senior Marketing Manager: *Julie Keck*
Marketing Communications Specialist: *Mary Klein*
Marketing Coordinator: *Alice Link*
Project Manager: *Sandy Wille*
Design Specialist: *Tara McDermott*
Senior Administrative Assistant: *DeAnna Dausener*
Senior Production Supervisor: *Laura Fuller*
Cover Design: *Kristine Jubeck*

Compositor: Laserwords Private Limited

Cover Image: Library of Congress (foreground) and Comstock/Corbis (background)

Library in Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Main entry under title: United States History Vol. 2: Reconstruction Through the Present. 20e.

1. United States—History—Periodicals. 2. United States—Historiography—Periodicals. 3. United States—Civilization—Periodicals. I. Maddox, Robert James, comp. II Title: United States History, Vol. 2: Reconstruction Through the Present 658'.05

Editors/Advisory Board

Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of ANNUAL EDITIONS. Their review of articles for content, level, currentness, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think that you will find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

EDITOR

Robert James Maddox (Emeritus)
*Pennsylvania State University
University Park*

ADVISORY BOARD

Gretchen A. Adams
Texas Tech University

Celia Hall-Thur
Wenatchee Valley College

Carl E. Kramer
Indiana University—Southeast

Neal A. Brooks
*Community College of Baltimore
County, Essex*

Harry Russell Huebel
Texas A & M University

Ronald McCoy
Emporia State University

Thomas Brown
University of South Carolina

Wilma King
University of Missouri—Columbia

John Snetsinger
California Polytechnic University

Jeff Davis
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

William M. King
University of Colorado, Boulder

Irvin D. S. Winsboro
Florida Gulf Coast University

Preface

In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the public press in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Many of these articles are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully collected, organized, indexed, and reproduced in a low-cost format, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by ANNUAL EDITIONS.

This volume begins with an article on post-Civil War Reconstruction, a period that ended in 1877. It was a very different world from the one we are living in today. The United States remained primarily a rural, agricultural nation. People for the most part lived much the same as they had 100 years earlier. They read by candle, lantern, or gaslight at night, they traveled by foot or by wagon, and they rarely ventured far from their home towns.

The following decades brought vast changes in all aspects of American life. Automobiles, expanding railroad systems, and airplanes enabled people to routinely travel to places they would only have dreamed about earlier. Massive population shifts, from farms and small towns to cities and suburbs, and from one section of the nation to another, radically altered the face of the nation. Immigration brought with it a host of opportunities and problems. At home, people could listen to the radio, watch television, or, more recently, explore new worlds of information via their computers. Diseases that once were almost certainly fatal or at least debilitating have now been virtually eliminated, resulting in life expectancies unheard of in the past.

With all of these "improvements," one would be hard put to argue that people in modern society are happier or more content than they were in the past. Extreme poverty is still with us in a land of untold wealth. Television and motion pictures, furthermore, encourage frustration by allowing even the poorest souls to glimpse those with lifestyles that only the wealthiest few would have enjoyed a century earlier. Other issues we face today also have echoes in the past: race relations, gender roles, domestic terrorism, and environmental problems, to name just a few. Some people fear that we are destroying the very planet on which we live. At least one new epidemic—AIDs—has become a scourge just as smallpox once was. Some fear that a pandemic of Avian Flu might break out that could be as devastating as the flu epidemic of 1918–1919 that cost as many as 40 million lives. Studying history will provide no "answers" to our modern troubles, but perhaps can provide some helpful guidelines.

Someone once said that historians wrote about "chaps," meaning white males who enjoyed positions of power or influence. Older history books tended to concentrate on presidents, titans of industry or finance, and military leaders. Women usually were mentioned only in passing, and then primarily as the wives or lovers of important men. Minority groups were treated, if at all, as passive objects of social customs or legislation. Mention of sexual orientation was simply out of the question.

Now virtually everything that has happened is considered fit for study. Books and articles tell us about the lives of ordinary people, about groups previously ignored or mentioned only in passing, and about subjects considered too trivial or commonplace to warrant examination. History "from the bottom up," once considered innovative, has become commonplace. Welcome as

these innovations are, they often are encumbered by two unfortunate tendencies: many are freighted down with incomprehensible prose (one of the criterion for inclusion in this volume is that articles be written in standard English), and many are produced to advance agendas the authors try to fob off as scholarship.

Traditional history is still being written. For better or worse, there have been men and women who have exercised great power or influence over the lives and deaths of others. They continue to fascinate. Presidents such as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman had to make decisions that affected enormous numbers of people at home and abroad. Thomas Alva Edison changed millions of lives with his inventions, one of which, the incandescent light bulb, is treated in this volume. Rosa Parks never held any official position of power, but she deeply affected the way thought about segregation in the South during the 1950s.

Annual Editions: American History, Volume II, constitutes an effort to provide a balanced collection of articles that deal with great leaders and great decisions, as well as with ordinary people, at work, at leisure, and at war. Practically everyone who uses the volume will think of one or more articles he or she considers would have been preferable to the ones actually included. Some readers will wish more attention had been paid to one or another subject, others will regret the attention devoted to matters they regard as marginal. That is why we encourage teachers and students to let us know what they believe to be the strengths and weaknesses of this edition.

Annual Editions contains a number of features designed to make the volume "user friendly." These include a *topic guide* to help locate articles on specific individuals or subjects; the *table of contents extracts* that summarize each article with key concepts in boldface; and a comprehensive index. The essays are organized into six units. Each unit is preceded by an overview that provides background for informed reading of the articles, briefly introduces each one, and presents challenge questions. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for improving the format.

There will be a new edition of this volume in two years, with approximately half the readings being replaced by new ones. By completing and mailing the postpaid article rating form included in the back of the book, you will help us determine which articles should be retained and which should be dropped. You can also help to improve the next edition by recommending (or better yet, sending along a copy of) articles that you think should be included. A number of essays included in this edition have come to our attention in this way.

Robert James Maddox

Robert James Maddox
Editor

Contents

Preface

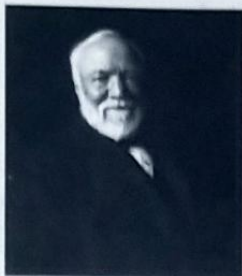
Topic Guide

Internet References

iv

xii

xiv



UNIT 1

Reconstruction and the Gilded Age

Unit Overview

xvi

1. The American Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction on the World Stage, Edward L. Ayers, *OAH Magazine of History*, January 2006

The Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction were seminal events in American history. The author argues that the war and its aftermath "has carried a different meaning for every generation of Americans" and "embodied struggles that would confront people on every continent."

2

2. 1871 War on Terror, David Everitt, *American History*, June 2003

During the post-Civil War period a **terrorist organization** that became known as the **Ku Klux Klan** arose in the South. Dedicated to keeping blacks in a subservient position, the organization committed atrocities against them and their white supporters. Everitt evaluates efforts to destroy the Klan.

8

3. Little Bighorn Reborn, Tony Perrottet, *Smithsonian*, April 2005

In 1991, after many years of Indian complaints, what had been called the Custer Battlefield became the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. That name change symbolizes the movement towards reconciliation between Indians and whites in commemorating the event.

12

4. Gifts of the "Robber Barons", James Nuechterlein, *Commentary*, March 2007

Corporations grew to unprecedented size during the post-Civil War period. Those who headed these organizations often were referred to as "Robber Barons" for their shady business practices and exploitation of **labor**. The author examines the lives of two of these individuals, **Andrew Carnegie** and **Andrew Mellon**. He concludes that they were "neither heroes nor villains in the roles they played."

16

5. The Spark of Genius, Harold Evans, *U.S. News & World Report*, October 11, 2004

Thomas Alva Edison took out 1,093 patents during his lifetime. His **invention** of the incandescent light bulb during the late 1870s changed the lives of millions. Evans argues that Edison's real genius lay in his ability to develop his inventions from the experimental lab to commercial success.

22

6. Global Cooling, Mark Bernstein, *American History*, August 2006

During the 19th Century **ice** from the lakes and rivers of the American North was shipped around the world. This commodity became even more valuable during the period after the Civil War when the advent of refrigerated warehouses and railroad cars revolutionized the distribution of meats and produce.

27

7. Lockwood in '84, Jill Norgren, *Wilson Quarterly*, August 2002

In 1884, lawyer **Belva Lockwood** ran for the presidency on the Equal Rights Party ticket. Although **women's suffrage** was her priority, she took progressive stands on most of the day's leading issues. She was the first and last woman (so far) to stay in a presidential race right up to Election Day.

31

8. **A Day to Remember: December 29, 1890**, Charles Phillips, *American History*, December 2005
On this date the 7th Cavalry attacked a group of *Sioux Indians* at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota, killing about 300 people most of whom were women and children. Author Phillips analyzes the events leading to this massacre, including the rise of what became known as the *Ghost Dancers*.

37



UNIT 2

The Emergence of Modern America

Unit Overview

40

9. **Where the Other Half Lived**, Verlyn Klinkenborg, *Mother Jones*, July/August 2001
The Mulberry Bend section was one of *the most notorious slums in New York City*. Danish-born reformer Jacob Riis photographed and wrote about the squalor and unbelievably crowded conditions in which the mostly immigrant population of the Bend had to live.

42

10. **The Murder of Lucy Pollard**, Caleb Crain, *New York Times Book Review*, July 15, 2004
The 1890s have been described as the "nadir" of African-American history. The disenfranchisement of blacks in the South was near total and lynchings were at an all time high. In 1895 three black women and a black male were charged with murdering a white woman on the flimsiest evidence. This article analyzes the case and the contribution to it of a crusading black newspaper editor.

44

11. **Joe Hill: 'I Never Died,' Said He**, Ben Lefebvre, *American History*, December 2005
The author describes the life and times of Joe Hillstrom, better known as "*Joe Hill*," a legendary *labor* organizer and agitator. After his execution for a murder he may not have committed, Hill became a martyr to many in the labor movement.

48

12. **Alice Roosevelt Longworth**, Steven Lee Carson, *American History*, August 2005
Alice Roosevelt Longworth was a "liberated" *woman* long before the term became fashionable. She was independent, outspoken, and given to pranks that outraged polite society. She delighted in embarrassing her father, President *Theodore Roosevelt*. When a friend complained about Alice's conduct, he replied: "Look Owen, I can control Alice or run the country. I can't do both." She remained controversial throughout her long life.

52

13. **A Day to Remember: March 25, 1911**, Charles Phillips, *American History*, April 2006
Beginning in late 1909, employees of the *Triangle Waist Company* joined in a strike led by the *Women's Trade Union League* calling for better pay, shorter hours, and improvement of horrible working conditions. The strike ended with few gains. The 1911 fire, which claimed 146 women, brought to public attention the squalid and dangerous circumstances found at Triangle and other sweatshops. Blocked exits and faulty fire hoses resulted in many needless deaths.

55



UNIT 3

From Progressivism to the 1920s

Unit Overview

58

14. **The Fate of Leo Frank**, Leonard Dinnerstein, *American Heritage*, October 1996
In 1913, Leo Frank, convicted for the murder of a young girl in Marietta, Georgia, was removed from jail and lynched by an angry mob. Frank was innocent, but the "injustices caused by industrialism, urban growth in Atlanta, and *fervent anti-Semitism* conspired to wreck one man."

61

15. **The Ambiguous Legacies of Women's Progressivism**, Robyn Muncy, *OAH Magazine of History*, Spring 1999
 Hundreds of thousands of women threw themselves into Progressive reform, the legacies of which are with us today. Most students assume that such activism and power must have tended unambiguously to liberate women. Robyn Muncy points out that the truth is not that simple, and that **female Progressive activism** left a complicated legacy. 68
16. **The Enemy Within**, Christine M. Kreiser, *American History*, December 2006
 Between September 1918 and June 1919, in the midst of World War I, an estimated 675,000 Americans died from **influenza** or the "Spanish flu," as it was then called. Author Kreiser examines this catastrophe, and the mostly futile efforts to combat it. Many public officials tried to downplay the seriousness of this calamity by subordinating it to the war effort. 73
17. **A Day to Remember: January 16, 1920**, Charles Phillips, *American History*, February 2005
 On the eve of **Prohibition** saloons and liquor stores held cut-rate sales, and some nightclubs held mock funerals for the death of John Barleycorn. Phillips traces the history of temperance movements that finally resulted in the "noble experiment," an effort to ban the consumption of alcoholic beverages. 77
18. **Evolution on Trial**, Steve Kemper, *Smithsonian*, April 2005
 The **Scopes Trial** of 1925 pitted **William Jennings Bryan** against **Clarence Darrow** in a highly publicized clash over the teaching of **evolution** in Dayton, Tennessee. Kemper points out that 80 years later many residents of Dayton refuse to accept **Charles Darwin's** theory about the common ancestry of humans and primates. 80
19. **Rethinking Politics: Consumers and the Public Good During the Jazz Age**, Lawrence B. Glickman, *OAH Magazine of History*, July 2007
 The census of 1920 revealed that for the first time in American history, more people lived in cities and towns than in the country. This development helped propel the change from a society dedicated to "producerism" to one based on **consumption**. Glickman discusses the emergence of what he calls "consumer politics." 85



UNIT 4

From the Great Depression to World War II

Unit Overview 90

20. **A Promise Denied**, Wyatt Kingseed, *American History*, June 2004
 On July 28, 1932, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, US troops attacked a group called the "Bonus Army." It was composed of World War I veterans who had come to Washington to demand that Congress pay them bonuses already promised. The use of violence against veterans shocked many Americans and severely damaged President Herbert Hoover's reputation. 93
21. **A Monumental Man**, Gerald Parshall, *U.S. News & World Report*, April 28, 1997
 Gerald Parshall discusses **Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal characteristics**: his famous smile, his speeches, "fireside chats," and his ability to "treat kings like commoners and commoners like kings." Special attention is paid to "FDR's splendid deception"—his determination to conceal the fact that a 1921 bout with polio had left him unable to walk. 97
22. **When America Sent Her Own Packing**, Steve Boisson, *American History*, October 2006
 During the Great Depression about 1 million people of **Mexican** descent were driven from the United States by raids, deportations, and scare tactics. Los Angeles County, for instance, sponsored trains to "repatriate" Mexicans. Americans, bewildered by the economic disaster, sought a convenient scapegoat and "found it in the Mexican community." 100

23. **Wings Over America**, Ruth Mitchell, *American History*, August 2002
The authors discuss the "golden age" of American **aviation**, focusing on the 1936 Bendix race that attracted great publicity and featured many of the nation's top pilots. What was unusual about this race was the number of **women** pilots who entered, including **Amelia Earhart** and **Jackie Cochran**. Neither won, but another woman, **Louise Thaden**, took first prize. 105
24. **Labor Strikes Back**, Robert Shogan, *American History*, December 2006
In December 1936 the **United Auto Workers** launched a sit-down strike against **General Motors**. Shogan discusses events leading up to the strike and the violence that resulted. The success of the strike sparked a wave of similar actions in workplaces across the nation. According to the author, "the sit-down strikers wrote a new chapter in the annals of American **labor**." 109
25. **World War II: 1941 to 1945**, Roger J. Spiller, *American Heritage*, November/December 2004
Spiller discusses a number of what he considers the best books about **World War II**. Collectively, these books enlarge our understanding of the war by sweeping away old myths and by placing the part played by the United States within a global context. "Each of these books," he writes, "in its own way shows the reader how war calls forth the best and the most terrible human qualities." 114
26. **The Biggest Decision: Why We Had to Drop the Atomic Bomb**, Robert James Maddox, *American Heritage*, May/June 1995
Some critics have argued that Japan was so close to surrender during the summer of 1945 that the **use of atomic bombs** was unnecessary. Robert Maddox shows that this criticism is misguided. The Japanese army, which controlled the situation, was prepared to fight to the finish, and it hoped to inflict such hideous casualties on invading forces that the United States would agree to a negotiated peace. 117



UNIT 5

From the Cold War to 2007

Unit Overview

27. **Dollar Diplomacy**, Niall Ferguson, *The New Yorker*, August 27, 2007
The end of World War II found the economic structure of Europe in ruins. The harsh winter of 1946–47, further depressed economic and social conditions. Fearing a collapse into chaos, American Secretary of State **George C. Marshall** in the spring of 1947 proposed a massive aid program to get Europe back on its feet. Niall Ferguson evaluates the **Marshall Plan**, which has been called "among the most noble experiences in human affairs." 122
28. **From Rosie the Riveter to the Global Assembly Line**, Leila J. Rupp, *OAH Magazine of History*, July 2004
The decade of the 1950s, according to Rupp, has gone down as "a period of prosperity, conformity, domesticity, and suburbanization." Rosie the Riveter of World War II was supposed to trade in her tools for an apron. This article shows that much of the discontent that burst out during the 1960s had roots in the previous decade—particularly with regard to the status of women. 125
29. **The Civil Rights Movement in World Perspective**, Kevin Gaines, *OAH Magazine of History*, January 2007
The **American Civil Rights Movement** of the 1950–1960s was not carried out in isolation. Rather, Kevin Gaines writes, it was "keenly observed by audiences from all over the world." By the same token, American civil rights activists closely watched and learned from **Black liberation** efforts in Africa. 129

30. **The Rise of Conservatism Since World War II**, Dan T. Carter, *OAH Magazine of History*, January 2003
In 1964 conservative presidential candidate Barry Goldwater went down to a crushing defeat. Carter examines the sources of conservative discontent that began in the 1950s, and shows how these dissidents seized control of the Republican Party. In retrospect, conservatives lost a battle but not the war in 1964. 141
31. **The Spirit of '68**, John B. Judis, *The New Republic*, August 31, 1998
According to John Judis, "America passed irreversibly during **the Sixties** from a culture of toil, sacrifice, saving, and abstinence to a culture of consumption, lifestyle, and quality of life." He attributes these changes to the emergence of consumer capitalism, in response to which the counterculture as well as the religious right emerged. 146
32. **Soft Power**, Vladislav M. Zubok, *The New Republic*, June 21, 2004
Ronald Reagan, once considered by many to be a bungling incompetent, now occupies a much higher place in the ranks of 20th Century presidents. This transformation has come about, Zubok argues, not because of his embrace of militant policies such as Star Wars but because he sought the path of peace with the Soviet Union when the opportunity arose. 152
33. **From Saigon to Desert Storm**, Max Boot, *American Heritage*, November/December 2006
Author Boot describes "how the **U.S. military** reinvented itself after Vietnam." Improvements in the quality of both personnel and equipment transformed American armed forces from the shambles of Vietnam into the magnificent fighting machine that carried out operation **Desert Storm**. Unfortunately, he points out, this army found itself less effective against irregular forces in the aftermath of the **second war against Iraq**. 154
34. **The Tragedy of Bill Clinton**, Garry Wills, *New York Times Book Review*, August 12, 2004
Most people agreed that Bill Clinton was an able politician, regardless of whether they agreed with his objectives. This article analyzes the man and the scandals that mortally wounded his presidency. Wills argues that Clinton would have better served himself and his programs had he resigned from office. 160
35. **The Rove Presidency**, Joshua Green, *The Atlantic*, September 2007
President **George Bush's** key strategist, **Karl Rove**, "had the plan, the power, and the historic chance to remake American politics." This seemed especially true after **9/11**. The Bush/Rove vision of creating a permanent Republican majority dissipated through a series of blunders. "Bush will leave behind a legacy long on ambition," Green writes, "and short on positive results." 167



UNIT 6

New Directions for American History

- Unit Overview 176
36. **Refusing to Lose**, Evan Thomas et al., *Newsweek*, July 23, 2007
"I don't think Congress ought to be running the war," President Bush has said, "I think they ought to be funding the troops." As the **war in Iraq** grinds on, the administration insists that progress is being made and that victory will be achieved through perseverance. Opponents of the conflict are hard put to support alternatives that do not appear to be admissions of defeat. 179
37. **A Legend's Soul Is Rested**, Ellis Cose, *Newsweek*, November 7, 2005
Rosa Parks' defiant refusal to move to the back of a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955 catapulted her to fame. Her death in 2005 serves as a reminder of what remains to be done. "Its easy looking back some 50 years to see the insanity of the Southern system," Cose writes, "but much more difficult to see (or become enraged about) the harm in today's softer form of segregation." He points to the alarming fact that school segregation is increasing and "remains a fundamental American reality." 182

38. **Ending the Fool's Game**, Douglas Mattern, *The Humanist*, March/April 2004
 "The greatest terrorism by far," Mattern tells us, "is that each day the people of the world continue to be under the threat of nuclear incineration whether by an accidental missile launch, a computer error, or by design." He echoes John F. Kennedy's warning that "The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us."
39. **Pssst . . . Nobody Loves a Torturer**, Fareed Zakaria, *Newsweek*, November 14, 2005
 "Ask any American Soldier in Iraq when the general population really turned against the United States," Zakaria writes, "and he will say 'Abu Ghraib.'" Yet, despite the furor over revelations of torture conducted there, the Bush administrative resists any attempts to curb treatment of prisoners in the future.
40. **Global Warming**, Gregg Easterbrook, *The Atlantic*, April 2007
Global warming, Easterbrook argues, could cause a "broad-based disruption of the global economy unparalleled by any event other than World War II." He points out that this phenomenon probably will do more harm to those nations already mired in poverty and might actually benefit the more affluent ones. He also discusses what must be done to stave off disaster.
41. **Boomer Century**, Joshua Zeitz, *American Heritage*, October 2005
"Baby Boomers" are generally referred to as those who were born between 1946 and 1964, a period when the national birthrate skyrocketed. "Raised in an era of unprecedented affluence and national omnipotence, but coming of age in a time that perceived more limited resources and diminished American power," Zeitz points out, "the boomers have long been defined by a vain search for satisfaction."
42. **Does Meritocracy Work?**, Ross Douthat, *The Atlantic Monthly*, November 2005
 One study of elite universities concludes that they are today as much "bastions of privilege" as they are "engines of opportunity." "Through boom and recession, war and peace," the author writes, "the proportion of poorest Americans obtaining college degrees by age twenty—has remained around six percent." Put briefly, **American higher education** is to a great extent **class-based**. A major obstacle to reform is that a more egalitarian system would run counter to the interests of elite Americans, precisely those people who have the greatest voice in the politics of higher education.
- Test-Your-Knowledge Form**
- Article Rating Form**