

Experience History Interpreting Americas Past

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in this landmark guide nearly two dozen essays by scholars educators and museum leaders suggest the next steps in the interpretation of african american history and culture from the colonial period to

the twentieth century at history museums and historic sites this diverse anthology addresses both historical research and interpretive methodologies including investigating church and legal records using social media navigating sensitive or difficult topics preserving historic places engaging students and communities and strengthening connections between local and national history case studies of exhibitions tours and school programs from around the country provide practical inspiration including photographs of projects and examples of exhibit label text highlights include amanda seymour discusses the prevalence of false nostalgia at the homes of the first five presidents and offers practical solutions to create a more inclusive nuanced history dr bernard powers reveals that african american church records are a rich but often overlooked source for developing a more complete portrayal of individuals and communities dr david young executive director of cliveden uses his experience in reinterpreting this national historic landmark to identify four ways that people respond to a history that has been too often untold ignored or appropriated and how museums and historic sites can constructively respond dr matthew pinsker explains that historic sites may be missing a huge opportunity in telling the story of freedom and emancipation by focusing on the underground railroad rather than its much bigger upper ground counterpart martha katz hyman tackles the challenges of interpreting the material culture of both enslaved and free african americans in the years before the civil war by discussing the furnishing of period rooms dr benjamin filene describes three micro public history projects that lead to new ways of understanding the past handling source limitations building partnerships and reaching audiences andrea jones shares her approach for engaging students through historical simulations based on the fight for your rights school program at the atlanta history center a exhibit on african american vietnam war veterans at the heinz history center not only linked local and international events but became an award winning model of civic engagement a collaboration between a university and museum that began as a local history project interpreting the scottsboro boys trial as a website and brochure ended up changing alabama law a list of national organizations and an extensive bibliography on the interpretation of african american history provide convenient gateways to additional resources

cross cultural encounters in modern world history explores cultural contact as an agent of change it takes an encounters approach to world history since 1500 rather than a political one to reveal different perspectives and experiences as well as key patterns and transformations it studies the spaces between cultures historically to help us transcend human differences today in a rapidly globalizing world the text focuses on first encounters that suggest long term developments and particularly significant encounters that have changed the direction of world history because of the complexities of these encounters the author takes a user friendly approach to keep the text accessible to students with varying backgrounds in history

interpreting christmas at museums and historic sites offers a wide range of perspectives on christmas and practical guidance for planning research interpretation and programming by board members staff and volunteers involved in the management research and interpretation at house museums historic sites history museums and historical societies across the united states packed with fresh ideas and approaches by nearly two dozen scholars and leaders in this specialized topic as well as hanukkah and kwanzaa they can easily be adapted for the unique needs of organizations of various budgets and capacities an extensive bibliography of books and articles published in the last twenty years provides additional resources for museum staff

interpreting slavery with children and teens offers advice examples and replicable practices for the comprehensive development and implementation of slavery related school and family programs at museums and historic sites developing successful experiences school programs field trips family tours about slavery is more than just historical research and some hands on activities interpreting the history of slavery often requires offering students new historical narratives and helping them to navigate the emotions that arise when new narratives conflict with longstanding beliefs we must talk with young people about slavery and race as it is not enough to just talk to them or about the subject by engaging students in dialogue about slavery and race they bring their prior knowledge scaffold new knowledge and create their own relevance all while adults hear them and show respect for what they have to say the book s framework aims to move the field forward in its collective conversation about the interpretation of slavery with young audiences acknowledging the criticism of the past and acting in the present to develop inclusive interpretation of slavery when an organization commits to doing school and family programs on the topic of slavery it makes a promise to past and future generations to keep alive the memory of long silenced millions and to raise awareness of the racist legacies of slavery in our society today

this volume commemorates life and oeuvre of willi paul adams he belonged to a generation of german historians of the united states who shaped the profession in multifaceted ways kathleen conzen university of chicago writes in her commemorative essay willi paul adams produced an impressive and varied body of scholarship in his chosen field of american history he made a lasting contribution to

our understanding of the basic principles and processes under which americans established their first democratic constitutions stimulated significant inquiry into the political consequences of immigration for the united states produced three major interpretive surveys of american history for non american audiences and gave german readers access through scholarly translations to major documents in the american political tradition

a sweeping history of american cities and towns and the utopian aspirations that shaped them by one of america s leading urban planners and scholars the first european settlers saw america as a paradise regained the continent seemed to offer a god given opportunity to start again and build the perfect community those messianic days are gone but as alex kriegler argues in city on a hill any attempt at deep understanding of how the country has developed must recognize the persistent and dramatic consequences of utopian dreaming even as ideals have changed idealism itself has for better and worse shaped our world of bricks and mortar macadam parks and farmland as he traces this uniquely american story from the pilgrims to the smart city kriegler delivers a striking new history of our built environment the puritans were the first utopians seeking a new jerusalem in the new england villages that still stand as models of small town life in the age of revolution thomas jefferson dreamed of citizen farmers tending plots laid out across the continent in a grid of enlightened rationality as industrialization brought urbanization reformers answered emerging slums with a zealous crusade of grand civic architecture and designed the vast urban parks vital to so many cities today the twentieth century brought cycles of suburban dreaming and urban renewal one generation s utopia forming the next one s nightmare and experiments as diverse as walt disney s epcot hippie communes and las vegas kriegler s compelling and richly illustrated narrative reminds us as we formulate new ideals today that we chase our visions surrounded by the glories and failures of dreams gone by

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