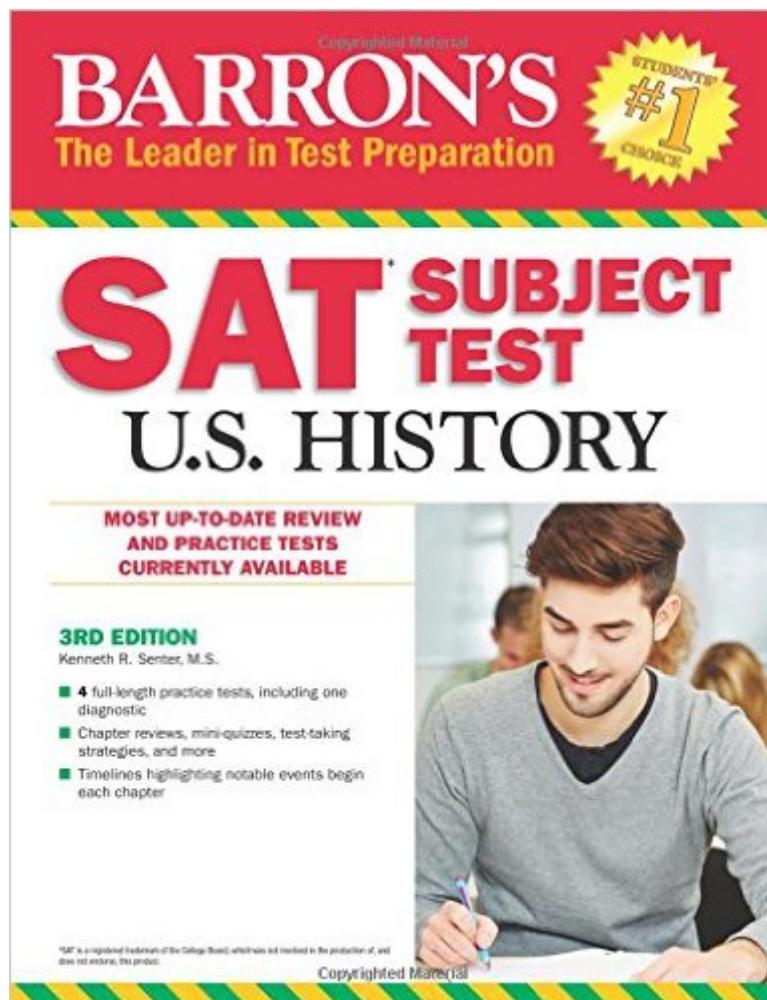


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# Barron's SAT Subject Test: U.S. History 3rd Edition



## Synopsis

This updated edition provides a number of tools to help students succeed on the SAT Subject Test in U.S. History: A diagnostic test to help students pinpoint their strengths and weaknesses; Three full-length practice tests with all questions answered and explained; Timelines at the start of each chapter highlighting key events; Test-taking strategies and tips for answering multiple-choice questions; An in-depth review of U.S. history, starting with European colonization of North America and covering major topics that include: the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Great Depression, important Supreme Court cases, and more; Review quizzes with answer explanations following every five chapters. The manual can be purchased alone or with an optional CD-ROM that presents two additional full-length practice tests with automatic scoring and fully explained answers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barron's review book for the SAT Subject Test on United States History offers a unique way of reviewing the subject matter and four challenging and comprehensive tests to prepare the student for the SAT subject test in United States History. Barrons divides United States history into 40 chapters, based primarily by era. Each chapter leads with a one-page timeline, listing the years of important events and a one line statement of the event. After the header page is a summary, under ten pages, of the Top 20 Things to Know. For each Thing to Know, a paragraph is written about the topic. When there are more than 20 Things to Know, extra items are tossed in the margin. You may

find up to five extra items tossed into the margin for each topic. Each chapter concludes with The Big Picture of five bullet points that knot the previous narration of 20-25 items into five main topics for each era. After reading several other preparation guides for American history, the change of pace is refreshing. The 90 questions in the four practice tests are difficult to read, interpret, and answer within the 60 minute time frame. The questions and answers are prolix. Some of the answer choices require a minute to reason out because of errors or because of the peculiarity in the way that they are worded. While managing your time is an important part of the exam, understanding the material is an important part of preparation. Take a few extra minutes to complete all the questions properly. If you can complete the sample exams in, say, seventy minutes, you will probably be able to complete 90 questions on the actual exam in 60 minutes. Some of the questions may be more appropriate for an exam on World History - for instance, question #26 on Exam 2 asks about the causes of the Great War, and one of the answer choices is the European Alliance system of Bismark. United States history books simply say that European alliances were a cause of the Great War. Bismark died in 1898, so whatever he constructed still had to be affirmed and maintained by Kaiser Wilhelm. The answer to the question - the event that is not a cause of the Great War - was the sinking of the Lusitania, which was a factor that contributed to the United States entering the Great War. There are also some typos, such as question #4 in Exam 2, which refers to the 'XYZ Affair in 1789.' The question before that, #3, is a misleading one. Georgia was founded as a humanitarian experimental society that banned slavery. Georgia eventually changed the law for practical reasons. I have a list of misleading questions for Exam #3 that I'll include after the review. If you answer 90 questions in 60 minutes, the average time per question is 40 seconds. Reading question #26, and reasoning it out, will take you more than 40 seconds - and this is for an easy question! You will notice that the questions for the practice exams get harder as you go along. The first thirty questions are not as hard as the next thirty questions, which are not as hard as the final thirty questions. The answers to the questions are okay, but not as thorough as McGraw-Hill: 5 Steps to a 5. The McGraw-Hill book does a better job of telling you why the other answer choices are wrong. (The McGraw-Hill book is for the APUSH, but the multiple-choice questions for that exam and the SAT exam are similar.) The Answer Explanations in this book love to use the phrase 'fabrication,' or 'plausible fabrication,' or some derivative to tell you why an answer is incorrect, instead of telling you why the answer is a plausible fabrication. The first Barrons Guide to the SAT exam for U.S. History by David Midgley did not work out so well. This one is better. More students will feel comfortable using the U.S History preparation guide by Kaplan's than this one. \*\*Exam 3#16 - I disagree with the term 'often' in choice e, because slave escapes were not 'often'

attempted.#33 - According to the answer key, the answer is D, but if you read the explanation, the answer is C.#65 - A book by Sean Wilentz on theÂ Age of ReaganÂ credits the Helsinki Accords for fostering a tolerance of internal dissent that led to the ending of the Cold War, a factor at least as important as the economic flaws of communism. I don't believe you can choose between B and C.#72 - Daniel Boone did not discover the Cumberland Trail. He was famous more for his role as blazing the trail, i.e. clearing the trail for the Transylvania Company to promote settlement.#83 - Rockefeller's penury also caused innovations in products that lowered costs. These modifications could be interpreted as 'technologically advanced.' The issue with Standard Oil that caused people to demand action were the railroad rebates that Rockefeller negotiated to lower his costs.

Why are you reading this book?A) If your only goal is to get a great grade, don't buy this one. Get the Princeton one instead. This one is unnecessarily detailed and difficult, and it will take you more time to remember all the details it gives you.B) If your goal is to become an expert and really, really learn about U.S. History (and you have enough time) this book is a great resource, because it has tons and tons of information, details, dates, names, etc.I was helping my daughter prepare to take the SAT U. S. History test, and she only had a week. Yeah, I know. In any case, after reading this book for a while and taking one of the practice tests, she got really disappointed. It seemed impossible to learn ALL THOSE NAMES and dates in such a short time, and get a good grade. She was not motivated to keep going. Then we read online that Barron's was way more difficult than the "the real thing," so we immediately ordered the Princeton review. Ah, what a relief! She went for 500+ to 700+ just because Princeton is more "big picture" era oriented in its questions.

I took the subject test in September and bought this book about two weeks before my test date. The diagnostic test completely destroyed my confidence (I had used an AMSCO book to prep before this)and that was when I realized this book was ridiculously hard (but then again Barron's is known for overly hard tests). That being said, this book is great if used over a long period of time because you cannot possibly go through everything in two weeks. I have little doubt that it'll get you a perfect score and some of the practice questions actually showed up on the exam. The information is well organized and the lay out is easy for quick last minute sessions on weak areas. All in all, it's a good prep. But I suggest using the AMSCO book (or any other credible history book) in conjunction to get a better sense of the "big picture" because this book goes a bit overboard with information sometimes.

This book is fantastic for learning the material; however, it is not so fantastic if you are just trying to review what you already know. I took AP US History and decided to take the SAT Subject test because - why not? I got this book to review some of the material and had no idea just how big the book would be. If you are like me and are just reviewing material, buy the SAT II Essential Content book by Larry Krieger instead. Its much more thorough and has key quotes, people, events, etc. I just took the Subject test about 2 hours ago and thought I did fantastic.

This prep book is totally FANTASTIC! In studying for the US History SAT II, I had been totally procrastinating and blew off studying. About two days before I took the SAT II, I bought this book and completely read this book cover to cover, although it was miserable to do in just two days. However, the morning I went to take the SAT II, I felt totally prepared, and even recognized material on the test because I had seen it in the book. All in all, after two days with this prep book, I scored a 720, and that's impressive. I strongly advise using this book as a study guide!

I really didn't like this book very much because it was too detailed on things that weren't even that significant. I took AP US History before taking the subject test and plenty of information that was covered in barron's wasn't even covered in my AP class, which at my school is very difficult. The actual exam was pretty difficult, but this book is difficult in a different sense in that the information isn't even relevant.

I always use BARRON'S for AP's or subject tests and I highly recommend it. They give a timeline at the beginning of each chapter to refresh what is going on. The chapters are very well summarized and easy to understand with various references and graphs. Practice questions are very relevant to the actual test also.

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