6. Legacies
Ashley Jackson

‘Legacies’ examines some of the legacies of the British Empire and the debate as to whether it was a ‘good’ or a ‘bad’ thing. There are many substantial legacies that continue to shape the modern world that have their genesis in 300 years of Western global dominance. Whatever one's view of the merits of Empire it is unarguable that it has had a profound impact on the world today. Britain and its colonies can point to a myriad of different consequences and influences and no single measure can quantify the impact of Empire.

1. Hope
Craig Jeffrey

India is the fastest growing major economy in the world with a large and rapidly growing middle class. It has established an identity as a major power in terms of Information Technology and has become a global player in terms of foreign policy. Despite this, however, India has a GDP per capita below that of Sudan. Economic reforms in India have widened social inequalities across the subcontinent. Poverty, inequality, and exclusion in contemporary India are the norm for many ordinary Indians. But there is hope. These hopes are not only economic, but also social and political—people have an awareness of rights and their entitlements as citizens.

Conclusion
Paul Wilkinson

The ‘Conclusion’ stresses the importance of skilled diplomacy and cooperation. The unfeasibility of unilateralism means that nations do still rely on the international system and need to manage tensions and disputes. Failure to do so could lead to disaster, as the system
is all too capable of destroying itself. Statesmen must be committed to international peace and security. Although democracy may not be the modal form of government worldwide, foreign policy should nonetheless be conducted with reference to certain underlying principles, principles that should be promoted globally.

1. The politics of the Constitution, 1787–89

Donald T. Critchlow

‘The politics of the Constitution, 1787–89’ describes the drafting of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 and its ratification. The central actors were George Washington, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, James Wilson, Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, Luther Martin, Edmund Randolph, and George Mason. Disillusioned with the failure of the Articles of Confederation, distrustful of direct democracy and the passions of the mob, fearful of demagogues, and terrified by centralized government that was easily corrupted, the Philadelphia delegates expressed profound optimism that the American Revolution marked the beginnings of a new epoch in human history—the establishment of a large-scale representative republican government worthy of a continent. In the end, the constitution blended republican theory and political compromise.

9. Tumultuous politics continued, 1974–present

Donald T. Critchlow

‘Tumultuous politics continued, 1974–present’ describes the five salient factors that shaped the context for post-Cold War politics: the demise of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, booms and busts in the economy, increased polarization within the electorate, the continuation of low voter turnout, and the emergence of grassroots activist organizations not necessarily loyal to any political party. The main features of the presidencies of Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama are described along with key events such as the Gulf War and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that changed the political landscape in America and had far-reaching global consequences.

2. Contentious people and factious parties in the Early Republic, 1789–1824

Donald T. Critchlow
The Founding Fathers feared political factions as a natural corruption of democrat government. None envisioned the rise of the severe factionalism that arose during George Washington's administration from 1789 to 1797. Divisions occurred over Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton's plans for the federal government to assume states' debts, establish a national bank, raise taxes, and pursue a pro-British foreign policy. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, believing Hamilton's proposals were unconstitutional, vehemently opposed the Hamiltonian program. ‘Contentious people and factious parties in the Early Republic, 1789–1824’ describes the opposing visions of the nation's future that were at the root of this factionalism and that led to the formation of political parties.

6. Gilded Age frustration and the Progressive response, 1877–1918

Donald T. Critchlow

Self-gain, partisan loyalty, and corruption characterized politics after the Civil War at a time when United States became the world's leading industrial power. Voters divided generally along ethnic, religious, and sectional lines. Republicans controlled the White House during most of these years, while party control of Congress remained divided, with the Republicans usually holding the Senate and Democrats the House. ‘Gilded Age frustration and the Progressive response, 1877–1918’ outlines the emergence of a Progressive movement in the twentieth century—first under President Theodore Roosevelt and then later Woodrow Wilson—which strengthened the executive office, enlarged federal power, and marked the beginnings of the regulatory administrative state. This period of progressive reform lasted until America entered the First World War in 1917.

8. Early Cold War politics, 1945–74

Donald T. Critchlow

Cold War rivalry between nuclear powers—the United States and the Soviet Union—set the tone and substance of American politics from the end of the Second World War to the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s. The Cold War dictated nearly every aspect of American politics. Bipartisan foreign policy prevailed until the Vietnam War in the 1960s, but this did not carry over to elections, domestic issues, or day-to-day politics. ‘Early Cold War politics, 1945–74’ provides an overview of the presidencies of Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard Nixon as well as highlighting key issues during this period such as McCarthyism, racial segregation, and civil rights.
1. Looking at rights
Andrew Clapham

Where does the concept of human rights come from? How has the human rights movement developed such a solid set of obligations that can be applied worldwide? The human rights issue is often contentious and the language of international human rights has become associated with all sorts of claims and disputes. ‘Looking at rights’ considers early historical invocations of the concept of rights and how modern rights theorists have sought to justify the existence and importance of rights by reference to some overriding value, such as freedom, fairness, autonomy, equality, personhood, or dignity. It shows how the concept of a ‘human rights culture’ means different things to different people.

2. From Common Market to European Union
Anthony Arnall

The EEC Treaty said that the common market should be established gradually over a transitional period comprising three stages. When the transitional period expired in 1969, the common market was still far from complete. ‘From Common Market to European Union’ explains how in February 1986, the Member States signed a new treaty called the Single European Act committing them to establishing the internal market by the end of 1992. At the same time, the Member States began to explore widening the remit of the EEC to embrace additional policy areas. In 1992, the Maastricht Treaty on European Union was signed, giving birth to a new legal entity: the European Union.

8. A great civilian power … and more—or less?
Simon Usherwood and John Pinder

The EC’s external relations were, in line with its powers, originally concentrated in the economic field. But there were from the outset also political aims. ‘A great civilian power … and more—or less?’ argues that as the EU develops its capacity in the field of security, it will become something more than a great civilian power. However, its strength in the economic, environmental, and other aspects of external policy, somewhat condescendingly called ‘soft power’, is already very important, and has great further potential as a force for the development of a safer and more prosperous world.
3. Human rights foreign policy and the role of the United Nations
Andrew Clapham

How are human rights put into practice? What does it mean when governments announce that their foreign policy is concerned with promoting and protecting human rights? Where is the enforcement of these rights? ‘Human rights foreign policy and the role of the United Nations’ considers human rights in terms of foreign policy and international law and examines the UN’s Universal Periodic Review process and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It is only recently that governments have actively involved themselves in how another state treats its nationals, but enthusiasm for human rights in foreign policy ebbs and flows.

American Political History: A Very Short Introduction
Donald Critchlow

American Political History: A Very Short Introduction explores key turning points in American political history, the nature of the two-party system, representative presidential and congressional elections, struggles to expand the electorate, critical social protest and third-party movements, and the emergence of a democratic political culture within a republican form of government. Despite fierce debates over the meaning of the U.S. Constitution, a belief in the importance of constitutional order persists among political leaders and voters. There have been deep divisions about the extent of federal power, slavery, citizenship, immigration policy, civil rights, and economic, financial, and social policies. New immigrants, racial minorities, and women have also joined the electorate and the debates.

Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction
Andrew Clapham

Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction considers the controversies surrounding the human rights movement by focusing on highly topical issues such as torture, arbitrary detention, privacy, equality, health, and discrimination. It discusses the historical origins of human rights and how they are formed in law; explains what our human rights actually are; and considers where the human rights movement might be heading. Today, it is usually not long before a problem gets expressed as a human rights issue. Indeed, human rights law
continues to gain increasing attention internationally, and must move quickly in order to keep up with a social world, which is changing so rapidly.

2. How the EU was made

Simon Usherwood and John Pinder

‘How the EU was made’ examines the combination of interests and events leading to the development of the EC, including the founding treaties. The Single European Act (SEA) provided for completion of the single market by 1992, strengthening the EC’s powers and institutions. It was succeeded by the Maastricht, Amsterdam, Nice, and Lisbon treaties, likewise strengthening both powers and institutions, and responding to similar combinations of pressures. The prospect of the single market helped to revive the economy, and EC institutions gained strength as they dealt with a vast programme of legislation. Recent years have seen the EU grow further, but also Britain’s decision to leave in the 2016 referendum.