By the time the last Indian removals from the First West were being carried out in the early nineteenth century, the demands of Americans for lands farther west, within and beyond the borders of the Louisiana Purchase, were creating conflicts with existing occupants and rival claimants. Over time, these claims displaced prior arrangements between fur traders and Indians. They also led to war between the United States and Mexico. ‘Taking the farther West’ describes this United States expansion, the war with Mexico, and the subsequent discovery of gold in California, which precipitated an unprecedented number of people heading to the western end of the continent. The Gold Rush had devastating consequences for the native Californian Indians.

‘Origins’ attempts to define the scope of landscape architecture and how the profession has developed over time. The term ‘landscape architecture’ first appeared in print in the title of Gilbert Laing Meason’s On The Landscape Architecture of the Great Painters of Italy in 1828, but Geoffrey and Susan Jellicoe made it clear in their The Landscape of Man (1975) that humankind has been purposefully reshaping the land since prehistoric times. Landscape architecture is often concerned with the design of functional and productive landscapes, but it shares an interest in aesthetics, pleasure, and amenity with gardening, and this links it, not only to the earliest settlements and cultivations, but also to ancient dreams of paradise.

The spread of the Industrial Revolution abroad

Robert C. Allen
The Industrial Revolution may have ended for Britain in 1867, but it had only just begun elsewhere. ‘The spread of the Industrial Revolution abroad’ charts the different regions’ share of world manufacturing. The second industrial revolution was in Western Europe, whose share of world manufacturing increased from 12 per cent in the 18th century to 28 per cent in 1913. Even more dramatic was the rise of the North American share: from less than 1 per cent in the 18th century to a peak value of 47 per cent in 1953. Other regions experiencing industrial revolutions in the 20th century were the former USSR, East Asia, and China.

2. Advancement
Allen C. Guelzo

‘Advancement’ describes how, in the aftermath of the War of 1812, the penetration of the markets promised a social and moral revolution equal to that of 1776, through the cheapening of production, wage labour, steam-powered transportation, and inexpensive start-up costs. The old Jeffersonians looked darkly at mobility, because it threatened to disturb the stability and permanence upon which the independence of the yeoman rested. To Lincoln’s generation, however, stability was merely another word for stagnation, for the repression of talent and imagination. Advancement was what was uppermost in the twenty-five-year-old Abraham Lincoln’s mind when he sat for the first time in the Illinois state legislature in November 1834.

3. Indians in the East
Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green

As the American Revolution ended, Native peoples saw new challenges. Although the United States had just been created, the survival of the new nation relied on cooperation with the indigenous nations to continue and thrive. ‘Indians in the East’ looks at the early history of relations between the new Americans and Native Americans following the American Revolution, how the Indian tribes were treated, and specifically how Indians in the East were treated and driven from their homelands. Some Indians remained in the East, but they retained so little land that they seemed to be more of an annoyance than a threat to the whites.

5. Assimilation and allotment
Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green
There were many contradictions in the way that the Native Americans were treated following European invasion, particularly in terms of the antithetical policies of separating Indians on reservations while assimilating them into American society. By the end of the 19th century, the conclusion was that the special status of Indians as sovereign peoples should end and they should be incorporated as individuals into American society. ‘Assimilation and allotment’ examines the problems that assimilation of Native Americans posed, including in education, land ownership, poverty, and employment. Assimilation was not managed smoothly, and by the 1920s calls for reform were mounting. It wasn't until 1924 that U.S. citizenship rights were extended to all Indians.

3. Balance of powers
David J. Bodenhamer

Two questions guided the framers when dividing power among the branches of government: What were the limits and purposes of national power? What were the roles and responsibilities of the various branches in exercising the government’s authority? ‘Balance of powers’ explains that no single event resolved these questions. Each branch has made large claims of power; each has experienced stinging rebuffs to those claims. The struggle involving the balance of power is described, including the Supreme Court and the President seizing opportunities to define their own constitutional powers as equal to Congress. Today’s hyper-partisanship has weakened Congress, although both division and inaction serves as an informal set of checks and balances.

4. From artifact to intellectual
Sean Teuton

‘From artifact to intellectual’ describes the nineteenth-century Indian Wars and the numerous Native American autobiographies that provide a glimpse into indigenous patterns of living, ways of knowing, and verbal art. These autobiographies also deliver a powerful counter-narrative of US entitlement to indigenous lands during Indian removal. In an era of reform, from around 1890 to 1934, Native and non-Native activists sought legislation to “uplift” the Indian, though reformers’ goals often conflicted. Natives and whites actively collaborated through the Society of American Indians (SAI) to influence federal Indian policy. The SAI helped save Native American writers for the twentieth century, scattering the cultural seeds for later Native literary flourishing.
5. Checks and balances
Donald A. Ritchie

Legislative results rank high in measuring the success of a president. But as “Checks and balances” makes clear, Congress is sensitive to its independent role as part of government. While the president, the chief legislator, sets out his legislative program in the State of the Union Address at the start of the annual session of Congress, there are many ways in which Congress can influence the success, or otherwise, of a presidency. Cabinet appointments need Senate approval; Congress has to approve treaties and holds the purse strings; and finally congressional hearings can investigate alleged misdeeds. Congress’s relationship with the judiciary, the other wing of government, is also examined.

3. An American Navy ConfirmedThe War of 1812
Craig L. Symonds

When America declared war against the British in 1812, most U.S. Navy ship captains hoped to conduct independent cruises against British commerce, but John Rodgers lobbied successfully for concentrating much of America’s naval power into one squadron under his command. After an unsuccessful campaign, the meagre forces were then scattered across the seas, leading to a number of individual ship-to-ship engagements between American and British frigates that greatly boosted American morale. ‘An American navy confirmed: the War of 1812’ also describes the strategic victories on Lake Erie and Lake Champlain and the enthusiasm after the war ended in 1814 for the establishment of a Board of Navy Commissioners and increase in the navy’s resources.

The Industrial Revolution: A Very Short Introduction
Robert C. Allen

The Industrial Revolution was a pivotal point in British history that occurred between the mid-18th and mid-19th centuries, and led to far reaching transformations of society. The Industrial Revolution: A Very Short Introduction analyses the key features of the Industrial Revolution in Britain, and the spread of industrialization to other countries. It considers the factors that combined to enable industrialization at this time, including Britain’s position as a global commercial empire, and discusses the changes in technology and business organization, and their impact on different social classes and groups. It looks at how the
changes were reflected in evolving government policies, and what contribution these made to the economic transformation.

4. Liberty

Allen C. Guelzo

‘Liberty’ examines the roots of Lincoln's revulsion for slavery and describes the condition of liberal democracy in Europe and America in the 1840s. Lincoln saw slavery as a direct obstruction of the Free Trade in Ability which liberalism adored and he had always been confident that the problem of slavery would solve itself, provided it could not expand. The Kansas–Nebraska Act jeopardized this expectation and, Lincoln argued, betrayed the intentions of the Founders by feigning indifference to slavery's spread. In June 1856, Lincoln was persuaded to transfer his allegiance to a new, all-Northern and unequivocally anti-slavery party, the Republicans.

2. The presidency finds its place

Charles O. Jones

An important issue with respect to setting up the new system of government was where to put the presidency. The capital city, it was decided, would be central between North and South. Congress and the presidency would be in the same city, separated by a swamp. “The presidency finds its place” looks at how the location was decided and evolved over time. Presidential candidates were not required to go through Congress to win. They were to be independently elected. Three governing centers were established in the new capital: one each for the Congress, the presidency, and the courts. The President's House was designed to be both a residence and a workplace.

2. Expansionism

Andrew Preston

Over the course of nearly three hundred years, the people who inhabited what came to be called the United States enlarged their territorial holdings. As they did so, their belief that expansion wasn’t just inevitable but righteous took hold: progress was good, the United States represented progress, and so many started believing that the best thing for all concerned was to stretch US borders as far as possible. ‘Expansionism’ explains how
the period between the War of 1812 and the Civil War unleashed these restless impulses and their violent effects across a continent, and set the ideological template for even greater expansions to follow.

8. The Court and the world
Linda Greenhouse

American attitudes towards foreign law was initially ambivalent. The same can be said about foreign opinions towards American law. ‘The Court and the world’ looks at the extent the American experience with the operation of the Supreme Court has influenced other countries’ and supranational developing political and legal structures and vice versa. No other country has chosen to bestow life tenure on its judges. Another difference is that European courts, for example, tend to observe a norm of unanimity. What is clear, however, is that even though most people know little about the Supreme Court, it occupies a place in the public imagination.

3. To write in English
Sean Teuton

‘To write in English’ explains how the written word allowed Native Americans to more easily pass on the oral literature of their people and to be recognized as educated and rational agents. In 1815, Sequoyah, a Cherokee silversmith, single-handedly invented a written language, which was embraced by the Cherokee Nation. By the late 1820s, most Cherokees could write in Sequoyan and, with the eventual success of missionary schools, many could speak, read, and write English. In 1828, the first issue of North America’s first indigenous language newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix, was published. The paper declared in English and Cherokee the vital role that American literacy would play in transforming Native people.

The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction
Linda Greenhouse

The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction tells the Court's story by drawing on its history and its written and unwritten rules to show how it really works. The Supreme Court today, housed in a majestic building on Capitol Hill, bears little resemblance to the ill-
defined institution the Constitution's Framers launched. Their expectation was that it would be the weakest of the three branches of government. The Court put the independence the Framers gave it to use, and in many ways has continued to define itself. How do cases get to the Supreme Court? What special role does the chief justice play? How does the Court relate to the other branches?

6. The Court and the other branches

Linda Greenhouse

What does the phrase ‘separation of powers’ mean? Would the phrase ‘dynamic interaction’ be more accurate? ‘The Court and other branches’ examines the relationships between the president, Congress, and the Court. When relations appear peaceful, there is often tension beneath the surface, reflecting distinct institutional limits, perceptions, and responses to events. If relations deteriorate, disequilibrium can turn into a power struggle. Relations between the branches are governed as much by norms and customs as by formal structures. The result is a cycle of action and reaction, passing between the Court and the political branches.

Landscape Architecture: A Very Short Introduction

Ian Thompson

Landscape architecture plays an important role in shaping the places in which we live and work. But what is it? Landscape architects are involved in the layout of business parks, the reclamation of derelict industrial sites, the restoration of historic city parks, and the siting and design of major pieces of infrastructure such as motorways, dams, power stations, and flood defences, as well as the planning of parks and gardens. Landscape Architecture: A Very Short Introduction looks at both the roots of landscape architecture and the people that established it. It also explores some of the misconceptions about landscape architecture and considers the discipline’s origins in landscape gardening.

2. Campaigns and constituents

Donald A. Ritchie

Elected locally, candidates for Congress go to Washington to make national policy. “Campaigns and constituents” explores how voting on major legislation often means a
choice between national needs and constituent approval. Once elected to office, members of the House of Representatives face new elections every two years. What are the roles of political parties in Congress and what is the reality of day-to-day life as a representative or senator? These and other factors in shaping life in Congress, especially the role of the news media and changes in communications technology, are examined.