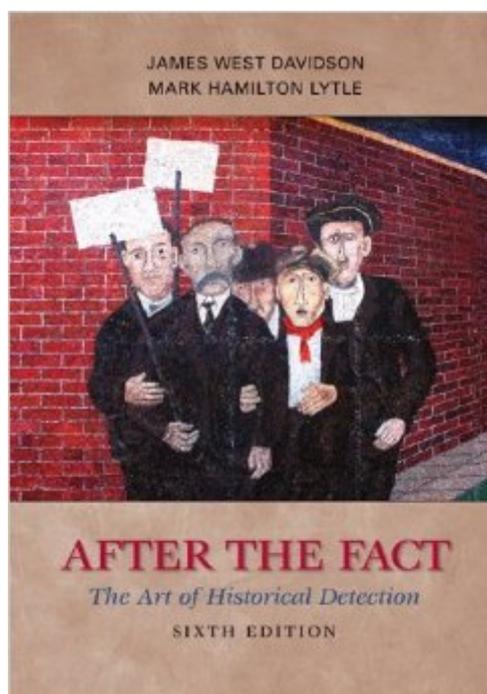


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After The Fact: The Art Of Historical Detection



Synopsis

For more than twenty-five years, *After the Fact* has guided students through American history and the methods used to study it. In dramatic episodes that move chronologically through American history, this best-selling book examines a broad variety of topics including oral evidence, photographs, ecological data, films and television programs, church and town records, census data, and novels. Whether for an introductory survey or for a historical methods course, *After the Fact* is the ideal text to introduce readers, step by step, to the detective work and analytical approaches historians use when they are actually doing history.

Book Information

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education; 6 edition (September 22, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0073385484

ISBN-13: 978-0073385488

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.8 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

History is more than just a collection of events and people from the past. It is a scientific field that requires training in order to be able to explore the past which becomes a foreign place to us as soon as we begin to explore it. It is an alien landscape dotted with some things that are familiar to us at first, but upon exploration we discover they too are not as we first perceived them. It would be easy to say something in the past happened, but do we understand why it happened, the circumstances of its occurrence, or the effects it created? To truly understand the past one must acquire training in exploring it. People far too often think they know what happened in the past, but when we start asking questions it becomes apparent just how little they know. Historians are trained in many techniques in order to study history and those techniques have been developed over a few centuries as the craft has been refined. *After the Fact* is a tool to help those who want to learn about the past. The series has been published for over 25 years and as of this writing is in its sixth edition.

This particular edition has eighteen sections that cover a different event in the past. Each event is well described and the work of the historian is broken down so that readers can learn how historians have researched the facts. In each case, we quickly learn just how important it is to understand the context of the time period the event is set in. This is where historians begin to be distinguished from casual readers because historians are constantly reading about the past in order to develop a deeper understanding of the period they are researching.

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