

Becoming Americans Four Centuries Of Immigrant Writing

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Through the spring and summer, I ' ve been watching the daily maps of Covid-19 cases and vaccinations — the diagonal slash through Appalachia and the South to the Ozarks and Texas, where cases soared; ...

How the History of Four Centuries Ago Still Shapes American Culture and Politics

Black Americans say that opposing racism is essential to their faith or sense of morality, a view that extends across faith traditions.

Across religious groups, a majority of Black Americans say opposing racism is an essential part of their faith

Christopher Columbus, anglicized version of the Latin Christophorus Columbus and Italian Cristoforo Colombo, never set foot in North America. He landed on Caribbean islands ...

Native Americans worthier than wayward 15th century mariner

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Shelby Steele ' s work stresses the importance of blacks accepting the burdens of freedom—and rejecting narrow racial claims.

American Humanist

The former heavyweight boxing champion and philanthropist floated like a butterfly, stung like a bee, danced at the edge of death and spoke truth to power. A new Ken and Sarah Burns documentary ...

Muhammad Ali: Reviewing the Life of an Extraordinary American

And even a cursory examination of the speech — its comments much commented upon when they were delivered, much ignored by its audience and then much forgotten over the century that followed — will ...

David Shribman: Warren Harding, a century ahead of his time

Since 2000, there have been some impressive additions to the Halloween canon from BoJack Horseman, Modern Family, WandaVision, and more ...

The 25 best Halloween TV episodes of the 21st century

Democratic Sen. Byron P. Harrison of Mississippi called the remarks "unfortunate in the extreme." Sen. Thomas E. Watson of Georgia wondered why it was necessary for the speaker to travel ...

Shribman: A president a century ahead of his time

Why does art matter? This is a question that has given philosophers and artists food for thought for centuries. It ' s also been a leading question in many school districts when ...

The many benefits of arts education

If the nation ' s call to leadership in the twentieth century was decolonization, in this century it is decarbonization.

At the U.N. Climate Summit, Could India Become a Champion, Not Just a Casualty, of the Crisis?

Suppose Donald Trump had won the 2016 presidential election as a Democrat. How would both political parties have behaved?

A pandemic of hyper-hypocrisy is infecting American politics

Map engraved by John Emslie and published around 1850 by James Reynolds in London shows a family portrait of comets and meteorites.

A 19th century family portrait of comets

The Lewis College of Business had been Michigan ' s only historically Black college or university for more than seven decades before it was shuttered in 2013. But eight years after closing, the school ...

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Detroit's comeback efforts linked to an 85-year-old HBCU making a return of its own

In a Virginia courthouse this week, a historic trial will begin that aims to unravel the real motivations of the far-right activists behind the 2017 Charlottesville riot.

A 19th-Century Law Dismantled The KKK. Now It Could Bring Down A New Generation Of Extremists.

It's that sepia-tinted tension between aspiration and reality that fuels the gorgeously crafted new novel by Amor Towles (who also wrote "A Gentleman in Moscow"). Set in that same month, "The Lincoln ...

Amor Towles' new novel winds through the hopes and failures of mid-century America

By Brian Stelter, CNN Business Bari Weiss says her publication on Substack, Common Sense, is meant to be "the newspaper for the 21st century, ultimately. I'm starting it out as the op-ed page that I ...

Bari Weiss ' next act: a Substack newsletter that serves as ' the newspaper for the 21st century ' _

The Canadiens visit Seattle on Tuesday, marking the first time the team has played an NHL game in the city in more than a century.

PHT Time Machine: When the Canadiens visited Seattle a century ago

Democratic Sen. Byron P. Harrison of Mississippi called the remarks "unfortunate in the extreme." Sen. Thomas E. Watson of Georgia wondered why it was necessary for the speaker to travel ...

Comprised mostly of memoirs with some fiction, this volume gathers selections from the writings of 85 immigrants from 45 countries that illustrate the changing views of immigrants in the United States.

An inspired and urgent prose retelling of the Maya myth of creation by acclaimed Latin American author and scholar Ilan Stavans, gorgeously illustrated by Salvadoran folk artist Gabriela Larios and introduced by renowned author, diplomat, and environmental activist Homero Aridjis. The archetypal creation story of Latin America, the Popol Vuh began as a Maya oral tradition millennia ago. In the mid-sixteenth century, as indigenous cultures across the continent were being threatened with destruction by European conquest and Christianity, it was written down in verse by members of the K'iche' nobility in what is today Guatemala. In 1701, that text was translated into Spanish by a Dominican friar and ethnographer before vanishing mysteriously. Cosmic in scope and yet intimately human, the Popol Vuh offers invaluable insight into the Maya way of life before being decimated by colonization—their code of ethics, their views on death and the afterlife, and their devotion to passion, courage, and the natural world. It tells the story of how the world was created in a series of rehearsals that included wooden dummies, demi-gods, and eventually humans. It describes the underworld, Xibalba—a place as harrowing as Dante's hell—and relates the legend of the ultimate king, who, in the face of tragedy, became a spirit that accompanies his people in their struggle for survival. Popol Vuh: A Retelling is a one-of-a-kind prose rendition of this sacred text that is as seminal as the Bible and the Quran, the Ramayana and the Odyssey. Award-winning scholar of Latin American literature Ilan Stavans brings a fresh creative energy to the Popol Vuh, giving a new generation of readers the opportunity to connect with this timeless

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story and with the plight of the indigenous people of the Americas. Praise for Popol Vuh: A Retelling: “ Salvadoran illustrator Larios provides lush images to accompany stories of the Earth and the underworld, Xibalba, and the animals and gods that inhabit them. . . . A beautiful interpretation of pivotal Central American history told through contemporary illustration and language. ” —Kirkus Reviews “ In these pages you will find an adroit retelling of a complex and often confusing tale with a vast and bewildering cast of characters. Approaching the Popol Vuh with a fresh eye and the necessary erudition, Ilan Stavans, the distinguished scholar of Hispanic culture, nimbly conveys the content and the sense of the original, retaining its magic and fascination, while rendering it more accessible to a wider readership. Popol Vuh: A Retelling artfully presents the case for the centrality of this magisterial story to the cultural consciousness of the Americas and for the urgency of its message. ” —Homero Aridjis, from the foreword "At a time when so many of us ask ourselves about the end of the world as we know it, few books could be more relevant than this sacred text of the Maya. In a mesmerizing, illuminating new translation, Ilan Stavans brings to contemporary readers this lyrical epic, with its messages from a lost civilization obsessed, as ours should be, with the inevitable cycles of catastrophe and change. The Popol Vuh encourages us to contemplate the perpetual conflict between truth and falsehood, light and darkness, so that we may find the wisdom to emerge as better people." —Ariel Dorfman, author of Death and the Maiden "Popol Vuh is one of the seminal foundational 'texts' of the Americas before it became 'America'—and one so few of us really know much about. Again, Ilan Stavans is infusing the US of A with the cultures and stories that have been traditionally erased or ignored and forgotten. All I can say is, another amazing Stavans project!" —Julia Alvarez "The Popol Vuh is the great book of creation of the Maya K'iche' culture, and Ilan Stavans has embarked on an intrepid adventure of recreation; he returns to a myth of origin to endow it with vibrant topicality, proving that rewriting a legend is a way of bewitching time." —Juan Villoro, author of God Is Round “ Many translators, scholars, and poets have brought us close to the radiant eminence of our Mayan origin story, the Popol Vuh. None touch its wondrous dynamism and epic elegance like Stavans and Larios. Free of the formal constraints of the K'iche' original, Stavans' s delivers a masterful retelling that invites us into chimeric dreams: from the mischievous first peoples and the quests of those grown from seeds, to hybrid creatures and demi-god twins with battles lost and won. Larios' s dexterous admixture of cool washes and vibrant color palettes along with a K'iche' -inspired line-work aesthetic, further unzip our minds to a shared ancestral imaginary. Only my Guatemalan abuelita could cast such storytelling spells over me. Together, Stavans and Larios invite us all to dance as the children we once were and will become. A gift! ” —Frederick Luis Aldama, author of Long Stories Cut Short: Fiction from the Borderlands “ Ilan Stavans's retelling of this ancient and sacred story of the Mayan people is as exquisitely written as it is necessary. ” —Eduardo Halfon, author of Mourning Praise for Ilan Stavans: “ Ilan Stavans is an inventive interpreter of the contemporary cultures of the Americas. . . . Cantankerous and clever, sprightly and serious, Stavans is a voracious thinker. In his writing, life serves to illuminate literature—and vice versa: he is unafraid to court controversy, unsettle opinions, make enemies. In short, Stavans is an old-fashioned intellectual, a brilliant interpreter of his triple heritage—Jewish, Mexican, and American. ” —Henry Louis Gates, Jr. “ . . .in the void created by the death of his compatriot Octavio Paz, Ilan Stavans has emerged as Latin America' s liveliest and boldest critic and most innovative cultural enthusiast. ” —The Washington Post “ Ilan Stavans has done as much as anyone alive to bridge the hemisphere' s linguistic gaps. ” —The Miami Herald “ A canon-maker. ” —The Chronicle of Higher Education “ Ilan Stavans is a maverick intellectual whose canonical work has already produced a whole array of marvels... His incisive essays are redefining Jewish literature. ” —The Forward “ Ilan Stavans is the rarest of North American writers—he sees the Americas whole. Not since Octavio Paz has Mexico given us an intellectual so able to violate borders, with learning and grace. ” —Richard Rodriguez “ In the multicultural rainbow that is contemporary America, no one may be more representative of the state of the union than Ilan Stavans. ” —Newsday “ Ilan Stavans may very well succeed in becoming the Octavio Paz of our age. ” —The San Francisco Chronicle “ A virtuoso critic with an exuberant, encyclopedic, restless mind. ” —The Forward “ Ilan Stavans has the sharp eye of the internal exile. Writing about the sometimes reluctant reconquista of North America by Spanish-speaking cultures or the development of his own identity, he deals with both the life of the mind and the life of the streets. ” —John Sayles “ Lively and intelligent, eclectic, sharp-tongued. ” —Peter Matthiessen “ I think Stavans

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has one of the best grips around on what makes Spanish America tick. ” —Gregory Rabassa “ Ilan Stavans is a disciple of Kafka and Borges. He accepts social identity broadly, in the most cosmopolitan terms... His impulse is to broaden, not to narrow; he finds understanding through complication of identity, not through the easy gestures of ethnic politics. ” —The New York Times “ Ilan Stavans has established himself as an invaluable commentator of literature. ” —Phillip Lopate

The *United States of Mestizo* is a powerful manifesto attesting to the fundamental changes the nation has undergone in the last half-century. Writer Ilan Stavans meditates on how the cross-fertilizing process that defined the Americas during the colonial period—the racial melding of Europeans and indigenous peoples—foretells the miscegenation that is the most salient profile of America today. If, as W.E.B. DuBois once argued, the twentieth century was defined by a color fracture at its core, Stavans believes the twenty-first will be shaped by a multi-color line that will make us all a sum of parts.

For four centuries, imparting the three essential elements of religion, morality, and knowledge was the core of America's educational system. In recent decades, secularization of education has become the new American paradigm. In this title, learn about the effects of both philosophies as well as our early educational heroes.

Highlights how every significant social transformation in American history affected the advances of Blacks in the labor force

The border between the United States and Mexico, despite attempts at containment, remains a vast and uniquely malleable yet indefinable region. With *Border Culture*, Ilan Stavans has collected essays representative of the tangled experiences and issues central to life between cultures. Divided into two sections, *Border Culture* covers topics essential to better understanding this often misunderstood region and state-of-mind. The first section, "Considerations," culls essays covering socio-economic and political topics illustrating the hyper reality of life and living on La Frontera. Section two, "Testimonios," takes careful consideration of lives affected by the border, either as a finite place, alternate universe, or the framework of the border as a state-of-mind, through various historic and literary accounts of La Frontera. This enlightening and comprehensive collection will no doubt help readers better understand border culture.

Labor leader, social justice advocate, Chicano leader, and humanitarian are only some of the multifaceted renderings of César Chávez. Ilan Stavans has compiled essays and first-person narratives that capture the multiple dimensions of this storied figure. To that end, Stavans's collection of timely articles separates fact from fiction, or as he puts it the "objective is the opposite of hagiography." Broken into two sections, *César Chávez* explores a variety of topics central to understanding the actual person instead of a shadowy apparition. The first part, "Considerations" offers critical assessments of Chávez's life that utilize different approaches to understanding his life, including cultural studies critiques, historical narrative that provide invaluable context, and even eulogies following his untimely death. The second section, "Voices" includes personal reflections on Chávez's life that explore his religiosity, his role as an "everyman," and the decline of the United Farm Workers union. The title is certain to assist readers in better comprehending this groundbreaking labor leader.

A history of immigration to this country and of our changing policies concerning opening our borders.

Cities rather than individual pioneers have been the driving force in the settlement and economic development of the western half of North America. Throughout

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the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, western urban centers served as starting points for conquest and settlement. As these frontier cities matured into metropolitan centers, they grew from imitators of eastern culture and outposts of eastern capital into independent sources of economic, cultural, and intellectual change. From the Gulf of Alaska to the Mississippi River and from the binational metropolis of San Diego-Tijuana to the Prairie Province capitals of Canada, Carl Abbott explores the complex urban history of western Canada and the United States. The evolution of western cities from stations for exploration and military occupation to contemporary entry points for migration and components of a global economy reminds us that it is cities that "won the West." And today, as cultural change increasingly moves from west to east, Abbott argues that the urban West represents a new center from which emerging patterns of behavior and changing customs will help to shape North America in the twenty-first century.

In this first single-authored history of Virginia since the 1970s, Peter Wallenstein traces major themes across four centuries in a brisk narrative that recalls the people and events that have shaped the Old Dominion.

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