Highly respected for its impeccable scholarship and elegant writing style, Alan Brinkley’s American History provides students and instructors with a reliable, comprehensive account of the American past in which no single approach or theme predominates. From its first edition, this text has included a scrupulous account of American political and diplomatic history. Today, the book explores areas of history such as social, cultural, urban, racial and ethnic history, the history of the West and South, environmental history, the history of women and gender, and American history in a global context. The twelfth edition of this text includes the McGraw-Hill’s hit Primary Source Investigator (PSI) cd-rom, with hundreds of sources and a program that walks students through how to write a paper using those sources as evidence..

My Personal Review:
I used Alan Brinley’s text "American History: A Survey" for my AP US History class this year. My teacher specifically chose this book, as his daughter, who attended another school, started out by using the ubiquitous American Pageant, but as Pageant was about two times larger than the book and it was March and they had just started WWI, his daughter's teacher started to photocopy Brinkley’s Book and give those pages out to his students. Brinkley's text is much shorter, and much better in my opinion. The primary source disc is a must. We always used that for discussion in class. One important part is that Brinkley focuses less on the battles of a war for example, but emphasizes the big picture of a war, like the reasons and effects. Is it perfect? No. But is it one of the better books out there? Yes. Without a doubt. Take it from a motivated AP student, it's the better choice. Here’s to getting a 5! Thanks Brinkley.

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