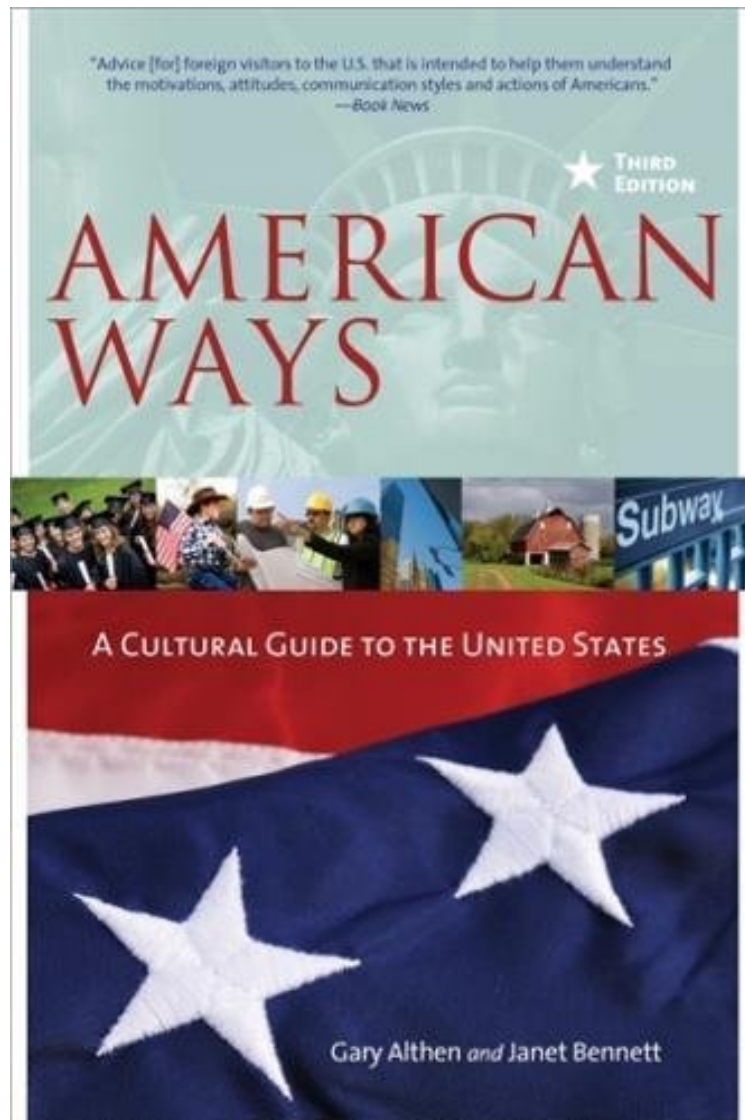


[Library ebook] American Ways: A Cultural Guide to the United States of America

American Ways: A Cultural Guide to the United States of America

Gary Althern, Janet Bennett

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Gary Althern, Janet Bennett : American Ways: A Cultural Guide to the United States of America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Ways: A Cultural Guide to the United States of America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Still the best availableBy S. FulmerDated, but still one of the best. I wish it was more direct about America's "pernicious dualism", our inability to think in terms of spectrum rather than black/white, right/wrong. Similarly, I thought that our xenophobia, our relative inability to think or learn beyond our

borders, got short shrift. My rating reflects the dearth of good material on the subject. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Provides good anecdotal info that internationals new to our culture can ...By Kim Jackson Anyone providing international student or scholar orientation should not plan their program without first reading this. Provides valuable insight into 'American culture' that we often are unaware of. Provides good anecdotal info that internationals new to our culture can really benefit from. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If you want to understand American Dominant Culture, whether a native citizen or a foreign friend, this book will explain ALL. By Prison Librarian I slogged through the first 25 pages stating obvious assumptions then WHAM! I could not read it fast enough. This book should be required reading for anyone attempting to understand American Cultural Patterns invisible to Americans belonging to the dominant culture. In other words, if you were born in another culture or belong to a subculture in the U.S. this book will explain why it is so hard to communicate with "rational white managers who have been in the same business for decades". It is a book full of examples, easy to read and understand. Even if the reader does not agree with the generalizations, the categories to understand culture are enlightening. "Rational white men" have a particular view of facts as if enough of them will lead to truth. Individualism keeps the sense of future limited to one lifetime (or the next quarter earnings). Linguistic features of English lead toward linear chains of cause, effect and outcomes. Other cultures experience relationships as community, time as seasonal or celestial, truth as intuitive. The authors do a better job than I can in describing without judgment. The idea is to celebrate American Cultural Patterns by understanding them better and thereby open the door to appreciating other cultures as just as valid. I will read this book several times and keep it as a primary reference. It is worth the fifteen cents a page I paid for it.

Whether you're a businessperson beginning to work in the United States or a foreign student visiting for a semester, this new edition of *American Ways* will help you navigate America's diverse and changing culture. From the deep-seated attitudes that mark the American character to customs and everyday activities, *American Ways* explores the tapestry of the country's life, providing invaluable information on cultural values, politics, education, religion, and relationships. In this revised edition, Gary Althen and Janet Bennett have added material that reflects some of the important changes that have occurred over the last decade. This edition features new material on American politics, reflecting the impact of the Bush administration as well as the election of the nation's first black president, and an updated chapter on the effects of social networking sites on meeting people and creating friendships.

Advice [for] foreign visitors to the U.S. that is intended to help them understand the motivations, attitudes, communication styles and actions of Americans. Book News This new edition is a primary starting point for students and professionals to begin their explorations of American culture. Readable and accessible, with new examples and recommendations for visitors, the text is even more amenable to the needs of anyone interacting with Americans and American culture. Kimberley Brown, Professor, Applied Linguistics and International Studies, Portland State University About the Author Gary Althen served for thirty years as a foreign student adviser at the University of Iowa, many of them as director of the Office of International Students and Scholars. He has been president of the NAFSA: Association of International Educators and received its Marita Houlihan Award for his contributions to the field of international educational exchange. He is the author of *The Handbook of Foreign Student Advising* and is author, editor, or coauthor of many publications concerning international education and intercultural affairs. He has also lived and worked in Peru and Malaysia. Dr. Janet Bennett is the executive director and cofounder of the Intercultural Communication Institute (ICI).