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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to the Popular *Defining Documents in American History Series:* *Postwar 1940s(1945-1950)*

Defining Documents in American History: Postwar 1940s contains 40 primary source documents that provide a compelling view of documents produced from 1945-1950, following the close of World War II. This unique era in American history is one characterized by increased economic prosperity and a great expansion of the role played by the United States in world affairs. The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 brought hope that a new and better world would emerge from the ashes of World War II. The end of the war was followed by a rapid demobilization of the armed forces, but it also brought shortages in housing, an inflationary trend in the economy, conflicts between labor and management, and the emergence of a new “red scare” wherein innocent citizens and government officials alike were persecuted for their alleged ties to communist organizations.

Defining Documents in American History: Postwar 1940s provides detailed analyses of key documents produced from 1945-1950, organized under seven broad categories:

- War Crimes and Tribunals
- The New World Order
- American Alliances
- Atomic Policy
- The Red Scare
- Domestic Affairs
- The Rise of Civil Rights

Each document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians and teachers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, Author Biography, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. Readers will appreciate the diversity of the collected texts, including journals, letters, speeches, political sermons, laws, government reports, and court cases, among other genres. An important feature of each essay is a close reading of the primary source that develops evidence of broader themes, such as author’s rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view, and other relevant issues. In addition, essays are organized by section themes, listed above, highlighting major issues of the period, many of which extend across eras and continue to shape American Life.

Each section begins with a brief introduction that defines questions and problems underlying the subjects in the historical documents. A brief glossary is included at the end of each document, highlighting keywords that are important in the study of the primary source. Each essay also includes a Bibliography and Additional Reading section for further research.

About the Series

Defining Documents consists of a collection of essays on important historical documents by a diverse range of writers on a broad range of subjects in American history. The series offers a broad range of historical documents on important authors and subjects in American history, with primary source documents, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive lesson plans that represent the diversity of ideas and contexts that define social, political and cultural subjects throughout American history. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in American History since 1492.

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“It gives modern students and interested readers a flavor of the times as well as thought-provoking observations about the issues being treated.” –*Against the Grain*

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