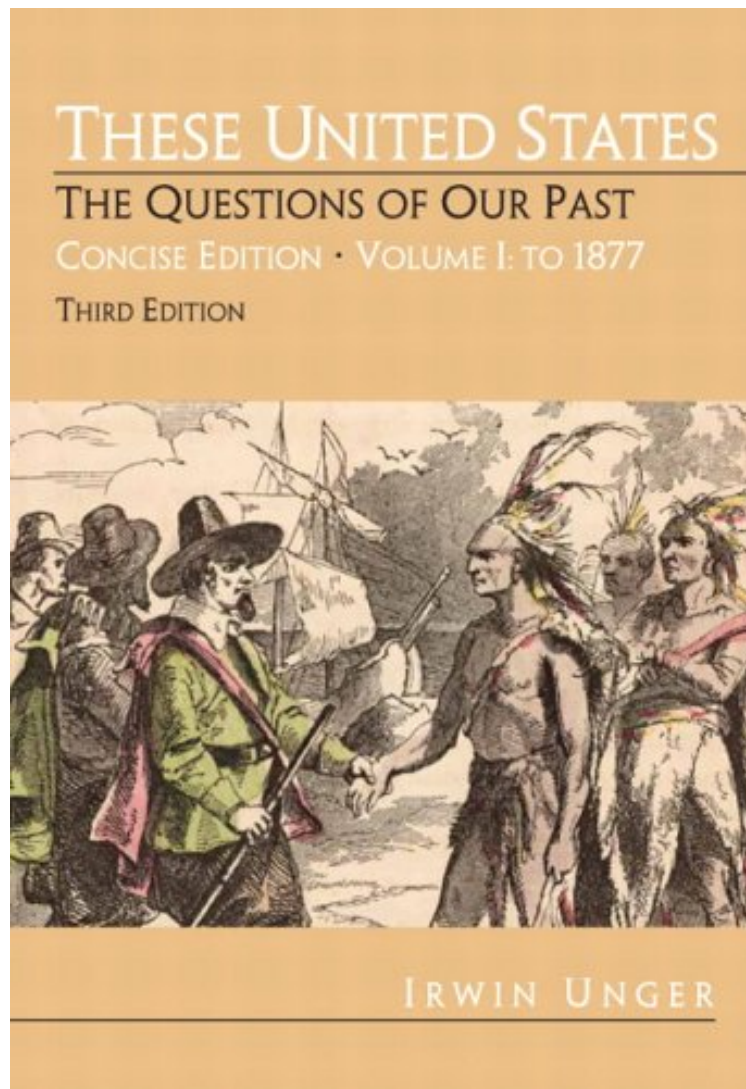


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Using a thematic approach, this concise survey explores the many and varied threads of American history-social, intellectual, cultural, political, diplomatic, economic, and military-from the arrival of the first native American inhabitants thousand of years ago through the crisis following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001. Irwin Unger, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, wrote this book after discovering from his own experiences teaching American History at the University of California at Davis and at NYU, that a thematic approach was much more interesting to students than a purely descriptive one.

About the Author Pulitzer Prize winning historian Irwin Unger has been teaching American history for over forty years on both coasts. Born and largely educated in New York, he has lived in California, Virginia, and Washington State. He is married to Debi Unger and they have five children, now all safely past their college years. Professor Unger formerly taught at California State University at Long Beach, the University of California at Davis, and New York University. He is now professor emeritus. Professor Ungers professional interests have ranged widely within American history. He has written on Reconstruction, the Progressive Era, and on the 1960s. His first book, *The Greenback Era*, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1965. Since then he has written *The Movement: The New Left* and (with Debi Unger) *The Vulnerable Years*, *Turning Point: 1968*, *The Best of Intentions* (about the Great Society), and *LBJ: A Life*, and *The Guggenheims: A Family History*.