



## Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education ([www.cool4ed.org](http://www.cool4ed.org)). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected no/low cost and open etextboks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

### Lumen – U.S. History 1

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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

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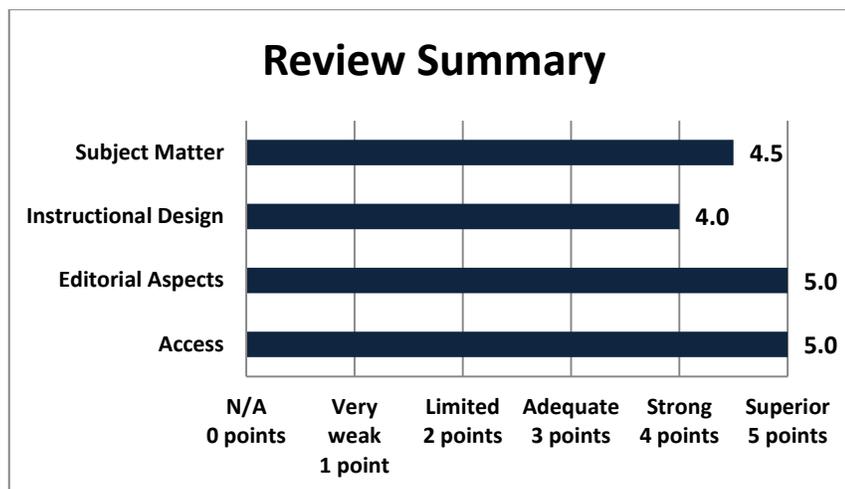
Format Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

August, 2014.



### California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [HIST 130](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?						X
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?					X	
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?					X	

<b>Subject Matter (30 possible points)</b>	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)					X	

Total points: 27 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- Overall it is well structured and easy to read. The textbook provides a solid understanding of American history. However, the structure and how it looks on the screen makes it feel flat and disengaged. This is surprising as it is the same text in the University of Georgia's History in the Making, which reads much better and feels far more sophisticated.

<b>Instructional Design (35 possible points)</b>	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?					X	
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)					X	
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?					X	
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?					X	
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?					X	
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)					X	
Is the textbook searchable?					X	

Total points: 28 out of 35 points

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- Could incorporate more historical images and maps into the text.
- The structure feels like a low-budget website that doesn't invite the reader to engage with the material.

<b>Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)</b>	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?						X
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?						X
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)						X
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)						X
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)						X

Total points: 25 out of 25 points

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- No comment.

<b>Access (25 possible points)</b>	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in						X

Access (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
college/university campus student computer labs?						
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)						X
Can the textbook be printed easily?						X
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?						X
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?						X

Total points: 25 out of 25 points

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The online version is rather poor. It isn't inviting or engaging. The PDF version in History in the Making is far superior.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?				X		
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
			X			

Total points: 5 out of 10 points

### Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- I wouldn't recommend this version, but would highly recommend the PDF version, History in the Making.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- The appearance; the online version is bland and uninviting. Needs more images.
- It is somewhat confusing to figure out how to access the textbook: use another title other than "pages;" perhaps "textbook."
- The method for advancing through the text was somewhat tedious. I generally like the "next" feature, but I'd also like the option of being able to scroll through the entire book.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#).  
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