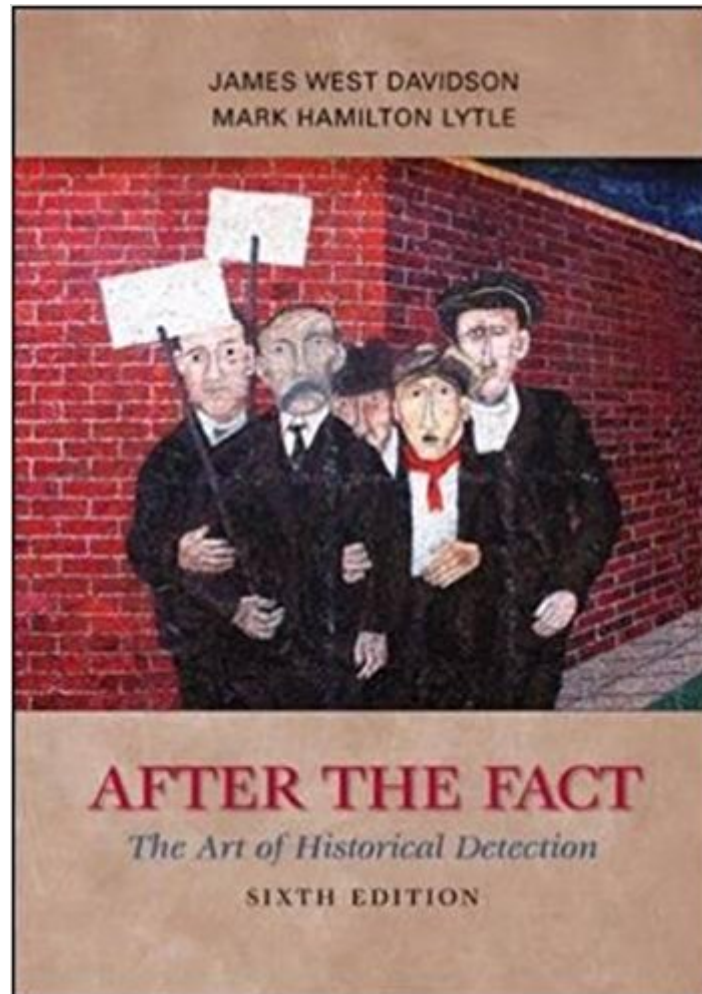


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# After The Fact: The Art Of Historical Detection



## Synopsis

For more than twenty-five years, *After the Fact* has guided students through American history and the methods used to study it. In dramatic episodes that move chronologically through American history, this best-selling book examines a broad variety of topics including oral evidence, photographs, ecological data, films and television programs, church and town records, census data, and novels. Whether for an introductory survey or for a historical methods course, *After the Fact* is the ideal text to introduce readers, step by step, to the detective work and analytical approaches historians use when they are actually doing history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James West Davidson received his B.A. from Haverford College and his Ph.D. from Yale University. A historian who has pursued a full-time writing career, he is the author of numerous books, among them *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection* (with Mark H. Lytle), *The Logic of Millennial Thought: Eighteenth Century New England*, and *Great Heart: The History of a Labrador Adventure* (with John Ruggie). He is co-editor with Michael Stiff of the *Oxford New Narratives in American History*, in which his most recent book appears: 'They Say': Ida B. Wells and the Reconstruction of Race. Mark H. Lytle received his Ph.D. from Yale University and is Professor of History and Environmental Studies. He has served two years as Mary Ball Washington Professor of American History at University College, Dublin, in Ireland. His publications include *The Origins of the Iranian-American Alliance, 1941-1953*, *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection* (with James

West Davidson), *America's Uncivil Wars: The Sixties Era from Elvis to the Fall of Richard Nixon*, and, most recently, *The Gentle Subversive: Rachel Carson, Silent Spring, and the Rise of the Environmental Movement*. He is co-editor of a joint issue of the journals of *Diplomatic History* and *Environmental History* dedicated to the field of environmental diplomacy.

This text is fascinating, and a wonderful read. It's great that this book is available for rental in Kindle format for students who aren't going to need the book very long. (IE: me.) However, the Kindle formatting for this book is really bad. The print is tiny, notes and highlighting don't work, and I can't access the book from my iPhone, tablet, or PC. Really, really just a disappointing production of a good text.

Anyone interested in history would enjoy this book, and learn from it, too. History is the story we tell about the past, and how the story is told is an art. The best historical art expresses truth and insight, and helps us to understand ourselves and others. When one considers that virtually all of our knowledge and perceptions, including scientific, are based on the stories we hear and believe, the art of history gains respect. The authors of *After the Fact* offer fifteen chapters on various historical topics, not so much for the purpose of writing history as of thinking about history. The authors' opinions about the topics are therefore not so important, and it really doesn't matter whether you agree with them, though I found all of them quite interesting and insightful. This book complements standard history books and is a great change of pace.

I know this is a book used more by students, but I highly recommend it for anyone who has any interest in history. I do think it should have been a 'new edition' instead of 'Vol. 2'. There were only two chapters that were different from the original, and the two chapters lost were the best choices compared to the ones kept. That said, the new chapter on women was eye opening when I think back to my own mother and aunts trying to be the 50's version of a domestic goddess and how it even affected me when I became a mother. Also I have to say DO NOT skip the Prologue! 'The Strange Death of Silas Deane' is riveting! All-in-all I would recommend this book. It's a lot cheaper than the first editions too.

This book gave me nightmares LOL or was it I hated the class.....

Seventeen chapters and one prologue, each a self-contained story of American history. Each essay

tells an interesting narrative while blending in lessons on historical research: how psychology can be used; how paintings, documents, and photographs are analyzed; how models and theories can aid interpretation; and so forth. It's a solid introduction to the craft, but its not meant as a comprehensive work on historical methods. For having done exactly what it set out to do, five out of five.

this is really interesting, missing a few chapters compared to the newest edition, but if you quickly compare you can figure out when you can borrow a friends... plus a new one costs like \$100 and a little inconvenience to save \$80 seems ok to me

Interesting way of teaching history

-not a professor or anyone of great intellect, you have been warned lol-Short interesting paragraphs that raise many interesting topics and ideas. Note: If you are buying this instead of the most recent edition, the chapter numbers are a bit mixed and you will have to borrow someones book for a chapter that is in the new one but not in this one. (Basically check the chapter name/subject or you will end up reading about Native Americans instead of Slaves.

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