
In this volume, twelve units of Minnesota history, generally arranged in chronological order from prehistoric times to the present, have been developed by means of forty-two topics. Each topic is covered by an outline followed by a “questions and suggestions” section, which in turn is followed by an annotated bibliography. The listed readings are also marked to indicate which would appeal to young readers, which are of general interest, and which are of special importance to each of the forty-two topics. Fourteen maps show the locations of natural resources, trails, roads, railroads, streams, the various Indian tribes, sessions, treaty lines, and reservations. These also follow chronological order.

Most of the units will be especially useful to the public schools and various local study groups of Minnesota. Topics useful to Minnesota groups concern state participation in wars, public welfare and health programs, politics, economics, and the cultural contributions of the inhabitants of the state.

Of wider scope are units dealing with the power struggle for the upper Mississippi basin, the explorers, early settlers, fur traders and missionaries—units in which the compilers include standard texts as well as translations of journals and diaries by well-known and some by lesser known voyageurs and couriers de bois.

Also of broad interest are many listings which include documents, letters, diaries, and histories of the Germanic and Scandinavian “old” immigration, plus those of the various ethnic groups of the “new” immigrants from central and southern Europe. These readings cover the movements, trials and tribulations, cultural contributions, Americanization, and gradual social integration of these groups.

This volume is based on a 1937 edition called Minnesota, Its History and Its People: A Study Outline with Topics and References, by Blegen, also issued by the University of Minnesota Press. That volume contains a sketch of the state’s history which has not been included in the newer work. As the authors have stated, Minnesota History and the Gopher Historian, both published by the Minnesota Historical Society, have been used heavily as a source of articles and documents listed in this volume. An up-to-date, time-saving reference work is the result.

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This slim volume is one of the few life histories of any scope recorded for an American Indian woman and is unique in being the second extensive autobiography recorded by a member of the same