

# a history of the american people paul johnson

A History of the American People Paul Johnson: Exploring the Narrative of a Nation

**a history of the american people paul johnson** is not just the title of a renowned book; it's an invitation to delve into the rich and complex tapestry that forms the United States. Paul Johnson, a distinguished British historian, brings a unique perspective to American history, blending storytelling with rigorous scholarship. His narrative captures the evolution of America from its earliest days to a global superpower, offering readers an engaging and insightful journey through time.

## Understanding Paul Johnson's Approach to American History

Paul Johnson's "A History of the American People" stands out among historical works because of its readability and comprehensive scope. Unlike some academic histories that can feel dense or overly specialized, Johnson's book is accessible to both casual readers and history enthusiasts. His writing is vivid, packed with anecdotes and character sketches that breathe life into historical figures and events.

One key feature of Johnson's approach is his emphasis on the cultural and ideological forces that shaped America. He does not merely recount dates and battles; instead, he explores the ideas, values, and struggles that influenced the nation's development. This perspective helps readers grasp why America evolved the way it did, beyond mere chronology.

## The Narrative Style: Storytelling Meets Scholarship

Johnson's narrative style is engaging because it reads almost like a novel. He introduces key personalities—Founding Fathers, presidents, inventors, and everyday citizens—in ways that highlight their motivations and challenges. By personalizing history, Johnson makes it relatable, encouraging readers to connect with the past on a human level.

Moreover, Johnson offers critical analysis without overwhelming the reader with jargon. His balanced view recognizes America's flaws and achievements, providing a nuanced understanding rather than a simplistic patriotic tale. This balanced storytelling is part of why his book remains a popular choice for those seeking a thorough yet readable history of the United States.

## Key Themes in A History of the American People Paul Johnson

Throughout the book, several recurring themes stand out, underscoring the complexities of American history.

## The Spirit of Independence and Innovation

Johnson highlights the American spirit of independence as a driving force from the nation's inception. From the Declaration of Independence through westward expansion and industrialization, the desire for self-determination and innovation propelled the country forward. This theme is crucial to understanding America's unique political and economic systems.

## The Role of Diversity and Immigration

Another important theme Johnson explores is the impact of immigration and cultural diversity on American society. He details how waves of immigrants contributed to America's growth, enriching its culture and economy while also facing significant challenges. This discussion provides valuable insight into the ongoing debates about identity and inclusion in American history.

## Conflict and Compromise

The narrative does not shy away from America's internal conflicts—whether over slavery, civil rights, or political power. Johnson examines how these struggles shaped the nation's laws and social fabric. His treatment of conflict and compromise illustrates how America's democratic experiment has been a continuous process of negotiation and change.

## Why Read Paul Johnson's *A History of the American People*?

If you're interested in a comprehensive yet engaging overview of American history, Paul Johnson's book is an excellent choice. It offers:

- **Comprehensive Coverage:** From the pre-Columbian era to the late 20th century, Johnson covers a wide span of American history.
- **Human-Centered Stories:** Historical figures are portrayed as real people, making the past more accessible.

- **Balanced Perspective:** The book acknowledges both the achievements and the shortcomings of the American experience.
- **Rich Cultural Insights:** Johnson explores the cultural and ideological underpinnings of key events and movements.

For students, educators, or anyone curious about how America became what it is today, this history provides a solid foundation with a narrative flair that keeps readers engaged.

## The Impact of Paul Johnson's Work on American Historiography

Paul Johnson's "A History of the American People" has influenced how many view American history, especially outside the United States. His British perspective offers a somewhat detached vantage point, allowing him to highlight aspects of American history that might be overlooked or taken for granted domestically.

His work has been praised for its clarity and depth, but also critiqued by some scholars for certain interpretations or omissions. Nonetheless, this dialogue is part of what makes his book a valuable resource; it encourages readers to think critically about history and recognize that historical narratives can be multifaceted.

## Enhancing Historical Literacy

By presenting history in a compelling way, Johnson helps readers develop historical literacy—the ability to understand and analyze past events in context. This skill is increasingly important in today's world, where history is often invoked in political and social debates.

## Encouraging Further Exploration

Johnson's book often serves as a springboard for deeper investigation. Readers inspired by his storytelling may seek out more specialized works, primary sources, or alternative viewpoints. In that sense, "A History of the American People" acts as both an introduction and an invitation to lifelong learning.

# Tips for Readers Approaching A History of the American People

## Paul Johnson

To get the most out of Johnson's work, consider these tips:

1. **Read with an Open Mind:** Recognize that history is complex and multi-perspective. Be open to ideas that challenge your previous understanding.
2. **Take Notes on Key Themes:** Keep track of recurring ideas such as freedom, innovation, and conflict to better see connections across different eras.
3. **Use Supplementary Materials:** Complement your reading with maps, timelines, or documentaries to visualize historical events and timelines.
4. **Engage in Discussions:** Share insights with friends, book clubs, or online forums to deepen comprehension and hear diverse viewpoints.

These strategies can transform reading from a passive activity into an interactive experience, enriching your grasp of American history.

## Exploring Related Works and Further Reading

If you find Paul Johnson's history compelling, you might want to explore other works that complement or contrast his narrative. Books like Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States" offer alternative perspectives focusing on marginalized voices, while David McCullough's biographies provide detailed accounts of individual leaders.

Additionally, exploring primary sources such as the Federalist Papers, speeches by Abraham Lincoln, or writings from the civil rights movement can deepen your understanding of the forces shaping America.

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Exploring "a history of the american people paul johnson" invites readers into a captivating tale of a nation's growth, struggles, and aspirations. Johnson's ability to weave a comprehensive and engaging story makes American history accessible and thought-provoking, encouraging us all to reflect on the past as we navigate the present and future.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who is the author of 'A History of the American People'?

Paul Johnson is the author of 'A History of the American People.'

## What is the main focus of 'A History of the American People'?

The book provides a comprehensive overview of the history of the United States, covering political, social, and cultural developments from the colonial era to modern times.

## When was 'A History of the American People' first published?

The book was first published in 1997.

## What is Paul Johnson's approach to writing American history in this book?

Paul Johnson adopts a narrative style that emphasizes influential individuals and key events, often highlighting the role of individual agency in shaping American history.

## Does 'A History of the American People' cover the entire timeline of US history?

Yes, the book covers American history from early European settlement through the 20th century, providing a broad chronological account.

## How has 'A History of the American People' been received by critics?

The book has generally been praised for its engaging prose and comprehensive scope, though some critics note its conservative perspective on historical interpretation.

## Is 'A History of the American People' suitable for academic study?

While it is informative and well-written, it is often considered more suitable for general readers rather than as a primary academic textbook due to its narrative style and interpretative approach.

## What themes are emphasized in Paul Johnson's 'A History of the American People'?

Themes include the importance of individualism, democracy, freedom, and the impact of cultural and

political movements on the development of the United States.

## **Are there any notable editions or updates to 'A History of the American People'?**

There have been several printings since its initial release, but no major updated editions; the original work remains a popular resource for understanding American history.

## **How does Paul Johnson's background influence his perspective in 'A History of the American People'?**

As a British historian known for his conservative views, Johnson's perspective brings a unique outsider's appreciation combined with a critical analysis of American values and political development.

## **Additional Resources**

**\*\*A History of the American People by Paul Johnson: An Analytical Review\*\***

**a history of the american people paul johnson** stands as a significant contribution to the field of American historiography, offering a sweeping narrative that traces the development of the United States from its earliest days through the late 20th century. Paul Johnson, a renowned British historian and journalist, brings a distinctive perspective to the subject, blending a traditional narrative style with critical insights that challenge some prevailing interpretations of American history. This article delves into the key aspects of Johnson's work, examining its methodology, thematic focus, and place within the broader context of historical literature on America.

## **Context and Scope of Paul Johnson's Work**

Paul Johnson's *\*A History of the American People\** was first published in 1997 and quickly gained attention for its comprehensive scope and accessible prose. Unlike many academic tomes that target specialists, Johnson's book is designed for a broad readership, combining scholarly rigor with storytelling that appeals to both casual readers and history enthusiasts. The book covers a vast timeline, beginning with the pre-Columbian era and moving through colonial settlement, the American Revolution, the Civil War, industrialization, world wars, and the Cold War, concluding near the end of the 20th century.

One of the defining features of Johnson's narrative is his emphasis on the foundational values and cultural forces that shaped the American experience. His analysis often highlights themes such as individualism, liberty, and the entrepreneurial spirit, which he sees as driving forces behind the nation's progress. This thematic focus aligns with the tradition of American exceptionalism, a viewpoint that regards the United

States as unique in its historical development and political ideals.

## **Methodology and Historical Approach**

Johnson's approach to writing American history is characterized by a strong narrative style combined with a critical evaluation of sources and events. He employs a chronological framework but intersperses the narrative with biographical sketches of key figures, cultural commentary, and reflections on political philosophy. This method allows readers to engage with history not only as a series of events but also as a complex interplay of ideas and personalities.

While Johnson relies heavily on primary sources and established historical data, his interpretations occasionally diverge from mainstream academic consensus. For example, he tends to downplay the influence of structural economic factors and social conflict in favor of highlighting individual agency and moral choices. This perspective has been both praised and criticized within scholarly circles. Supporters argue that it brings clarity and moral purpose to a broad, sometimes fragmented, historical narrative. Critics, however, suggest it can oversimplify complex social dynamics and underrepresent marginalized voices.

## **Thematic Highlights in \*A History of the American People\***

### **Foundations of American Identity**

One of the most compelling sections of Johnson's work deals with the early formation of American identity. He explores the Puritan influence on New England, the frontier spirit of the West, and the diverse cultural contributions that forged the nation's character. Johnson's narrative underscores the tension between liberty and order, portraying the American Revolution as a pivotal moment when these ideals were put to the test.

This thematic focus resonates with readers interested in understanding the roots of American political ideology. Johnson argues that the United States' unique constitutional framework and its emphasis on individual rights emerged from a complex historical dialogue rather than a single event or document. His interpretation invites readers to consider how deeply embedded cultural values continue to influence American society.

### **Economic Development and Innovation**

Johnson dedicates considerable attention to the economic transformation of the United States, chronicling

the shift from agrarianism to industrial power. His account highlights key inventions, entrepreneurial figures, and economic policies that propelled America into global prominence. Unlike some historians who emphasize class struggle or economic determinism, Johnson frames economic growth as a largely positive force driven by innovation and individual initiative.

This perspective reflects Johnson's broader view of progress as a product of human creativity and freedom. However, he does acknowledge the social costs associated with rapid industrialization, including labor conflicts and inequality. By balancing these aspects, Johnson offers a nuanced yet optimistic picture of American economic history.

## Political Conflict and Unity

Throughout the book, Johnson addresses the recurring theme of political division and national unity. From the sectional disputes leading to the Civil War to the ideological battles of the 20th century, he portrays American history as a continuous negotiation among competing interests and visions. His treatment of the Civil War, in particular, emphasizes the moral dimensions of the conflict, framing it as a struggle over the nation's soul and its commitment to liberty.

Johnson's analysis extends to the development of American democracy and the role of institutions in maintaining stability. He recognizes the imperfections of the political system but ultimately views it as resilient and adaptable. This assessment encourages readers to appreciate the complexities of governance and the ongoing effort to balance freedom with order.

## Comparative Perspectives and Reception

In comparison with other popular histories of the United States, such as Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* or David McCullough's narrative biographies, Johnson's *A History of the American People* occupies a distinctive niche. Its emphasis on traditional values, institutional continuity, and the role of great individuals contrasts sharply with more radical or revisionist accounts.

The reception among historians and the general public has been mixed but generally positive. Critics from the left often challenge Johnson's conservative leanings and his treatment of issues like race and inequality, suggesting that the book underrepresents systemic injustices. Conversely, many readers appreciate the clarity and breadth of Johnson's narrative, praising it for making American history accessible without sacrificing depth.

- **Pros:** Comprehensive coverage, engaging prose, strong narrative structure, insightful cultural analysis

- **Cons:** Occasional ideological bias, less emphasis on marginalized perspectives, simplified economic and social analyses

## SEO Keywords Integration

Throughout this review, relevant LSI keywords such as \*American historiography\*, \*Paul Johnson historian\*, \*United States historical narrative\*, \*American Revolution analysis\*, \*Civil War history\*, and \*economic development in America\* have been naturally incorporated. These terms not only enhance search engine visibility but also enrich the contextual understanding of Johnson's work.

The use of these keywords aligns with the professional tone and investigative nature of the article, ensuring that readers and researchers seeking detailed information about \*a history of the american people paul johnson\* can find a reliable and informative resource.

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Paul Johnson's \*A History of the American People\* remains a noteworthy addition to the corpus of American historical literature. It invites readers to reflect on the nation's origins and evolution through a lens that celebrates individualism and moral purpose. While not without its critics, the book's breadth and narrative strength make it an essential read for those wishing to explore the multifaceted story of America from a traditional yet thoughtfully analytical standpoint.

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settlements to the Clinton administration. This is the story of the men and women who shaped and led the nation and the ordinary people who collectively created its unique character. Littered with letters, diaries, and recorded conversations, it details the origins of their struggles for independence and nationhood, their heroic efforts and sacrifices to deal with the 'organic sin' of slavery and the preservation of the Union to its explosive economic growth and emergence as a world power. Johnson discusses contemporary topics such as the politics of racism, education, the power of the press, political correctness, the growth of litigation, and the influence of women throughout history. Sometimes controversial and always provocative, *A History of the American People* is one author's challenging and unique interpretation of American history. Johnson's views of individuals, events, themes, and issues are original, critical, and in the end admiring, for he is, above all, a strong believer in the history and the destiny of the American people.

**a history of the american people paul johnson:** *History of American People Header* Paul Johnson, 1997-10-01

**a history of the american people paul johnson: Die Amerikanische Revolution und ihre deutsche Rezeption** Ladislaus Ludescher, 2020-05-05 Das Werk behandelt die literarische Rezeption Amerikas und der Amerikanischen Revolution in zeitgenössischen deutschsprachigen Schriften. Es beschäftigt sich unter Berücksichtigung der gängigen Amerika-Topoi der Frühen Neuzeit mit der Frage, in welchem Umfang und in welcher Form die historischen Veränderungen wahrgenommen wurden und welchen literarischen Niederschlag sie in den poetischen Werken gefunden haben. Ausgewertet wurden dabei auch die Publikationen deutsch-amerikanischer Autoren, die die neuere Forschung bisher nur marginal behandelte. Die Arbeit geht u.a. der Frage nach, welchen quantitativ-qualitativen Widerhall Elemente der zeitgenössischen Entwicklungen um den Unabhängigkeitskrieg, wie z.B. die Subsidienverträge (sog. Soldatenhandel), in der Literatur gefunden haben. Darüber hinaus wird die Darstellung der soziopolitischen Rollen verschiedener gesellschaftlichen Gruppen wie Frauen und sozialen Minderheiten (z.B. Afroamerikaner bzw. Sklaven) untersucht. Ergänzt wird die Abhandlung durch eine digitalisierte und chronologisch und inhaltlich kategorisierte Anthologie von ca. 400 kommentierten Lyrica mit Amerikabezug, darunter zahlreiche Gedichte aus deutsch-amerikanischen Zeitungen, die zum ersten Mal ediert werden.

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**a history of the american people paul johnson: The Rabbi Saved by Hitler's Soldiers** Bryan Mark Rigg, 2020-10-30 When Hitler invaded Warsaw in the fall of 1939, hundreds of thousands of civilians were trapped in the besieged city. The Rebbe Joseph Schneersohn, the leader of the ultra-orthodox Lubavitcher Jews, was among them. When word of his plight went out, a group of American Jews initiated what would ultimately become one of the strangest—and most miraculous—rescues of World War II. And this is the incredible but true story that Bryan Mark Rigg tells in *The Rabbi Saved by Hitler's Soldiers*. Amid the chaos and hell of the emerging Holocaust, a small group of German soldiers shepherded Rebbe Schneersohn and his Hasidic followers out of Poland. In the course of the daring escape—traveling by train to Berlin, rerouted to Latvia and Sweden, and carried by ship through U-boat-infested waters to America—the Rebbe would learn a shocking truth. The leader of the rescue operation, the decorated Wehrmacht soldier Ernst Bloch, was himself half-Jewish, and a victim of the rising tide of German anti-Semitism. Perhaps even more remarkable were the central roles of Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, head of the Nazi military intelligence

service, and of Helmuth Wohlthat, chief administrator of Göring's Four Year Plan. Pursuing every lead, amassing critical evidence, pulling together all the pieces of what could well be a political thriller, Rigg reconstructs the Rebbe's improbable escape, and tells a harrowing story about identity and moral responsibility. His book is the definitive account of an extraordinary episode in the history of World War II.

**a history of the american people paul johnson: The Transformation of the American Democratic Republic** Stephen M. Krason, 2017-09-08 In this stimulating volume, Stephen M. Krason considers whether the Founding Fathers' vision of the American democratic republic has been transformed and if so, in what ways. He looks to the basic principles of the Founding Fathers, then discusses the changes that resulted from evolving contemporary expectations about government. Referencing philosophical principles and the work of great Western thinkers, Krason then explores a variety of proposals that could forge a foundation for restoration. Acknowledging that any attempt to revive the Founders' views on a democratic republic must start in the public sphere, Krason focuses on concerned citizens who are aware of the extent to which our current political structures deviate from the Founders' vision and want to take action. Ultimately, a democratic republic can exist, be sustained, and flourish only when there is a deep commitment to it in the minds and norms of its people. Written by a foremost authority in the field of US Constitutional law, this book will appeal to those interested in American history, society, and politics.

**a history of the american people paul johnson: The Story of the Constitution** Leslie Beckett, John M. Dunn, 2016-12-15 Many misconceptions about the U.S. Constitution are spread through the contemporary media, leading to confusion about the way our government functions. Learning about this important document gives readers the tools they need to verify the truthfulness of news items and decide what stance they hold on proposed changes to our nation's laws. In-depth sidebars and quotes from primary sources provide further insight into the creation of the Constitution and its modern-day consequences.

**a history of the american people paul johnson: Up from Slavery; an Unfinished Journey** Archie Morris III D.P.A., 2019-03-21 For a period of eighty-five years, the M Street / Dunbar High School was an academically elite, all-black public high school in Washington DC. As far back as 1899, its students came in first in citywide tests given in both black and white schools. Over this eighty-five-year span, approximately 80 percent of M Street / Dunbar's graduates went on to college even though most Americans, white or black, did not attend college at all. Faculty and students were mutually respectful to one another, and disruptions in the classroom were not tolerated. Yet in this era of best practices, this public high school has received virtually no attention in the literature or in policy considerations for inner-city education. The Dunbar High School today, with its new building and athletic facilities, is just another ghetto school with abysmal standards and low test score results despite the District of Columbia's record of having some of the country's highest levels of money spent per pupil. The purpose of this study is to explore the history of a high school that was successful in teaching black children from low-income families and to determine if the learning model employed there could be successful in a modern inner-city public education environment.

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growing nation; later presidents were concerned with the nature and definitions of citizenship. By examining the political speeches of presidents exemplifying distinctly different circumstances, she presents a series of snapshots which, when taken together, reveal both the continuity and the changes in our national self-understanding. Ambitious and sweeping, Stuckey's work documents the tactics that have naturalized and legitimated inclusion and exclusion, tracing the progress of groups such as women and African Americans from political invisibility to partial visibility and eventual inclusion. She also shows how the terms of inclusion have varied with changing political winds, helping us understand how depictions of the powerless by the powerful reflect and influence the status of various groups. Stuckey's analysis shows how presidents use language rooted in their times and circumstances to frame and influence contemporary definitions of citizenship. A provocative book that documents the changes in our understanding of who is and who isn't one of "us," *Defining Americans* reveals that all presidents draw upon the same set of national ideals, values, and events—but not all use those ideas in precisely the same ways.

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**When Should I Use “&” vs. “And”? Easy Ampersand Guide** What Is The Difference Between “&” And “And”? You should use “&” in informal writing only. You can use it formally only when connecting two names (“Johnson & Jackson”) or abbreviating a

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Ampersand vs. And What's the Difference? The ampersand (&) and the word "and" both serve the same purpose in written language, which is to connect two or more items or ideas

**When to use & instead of "and" - English Language & Usage Stack Exchange** In abbreviations, when abbreviating "and", & is often used: One rare usage is on envelopes addressed to a couple: Mr. & Mrs. Jackson. &c. is a rare and somewhat archaic

**Ampersand - Wikipedia** The ampersand, also known as the and sign, is the logogram &, representing the conjunction "and". It originated as a ligature of the letters of the word et (Latin for "and"). [1] Ampersand:

## Ampersand vs. And: Your Simple Usage Guide

Learn when to use each for formal and informal contexts to enhance your writing style. The ampersand ("&") serves as a casual abbreviation for "and." But how frequently is it

**The "And Sign (&)": How, When and Why to Use it - Linguaholic** Is it grammatically correct to use the "and sign"? The and sign, or ampersand, is a form of shorthand and shouldn't be used when writing a formal document like a school

**Amperand Usage — “&” or “And”? - Business Writers' Blog** First Rule: Generally, don't use the amperand in regular text, headings or titles as a replacement for and. Just don't—except as noted in the second rule. Second Rule: Limit

**'And' vs '&': Are they really the same? - India Today** WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? The symbol ' & ' should only be used in informal writing. In written English, 'and' should be used in every other formal instance.

**What Is An Ampersand ( & ) & How Do You Use It? |** It is read aloud as the word and and is used as a substitute for that word in informal writing and in the names of products or businesses. The following sentences show how a

**Překladač Google** Služba Google bez dalších poplatků okamžitě překládá slova, věty a webové stránky mezi angličtinou a více než stovkou dalších jazyků

**Překladač Google** Rozpoznat jazyk→ češtinaDomovská stránka Google

**Překladač Google** Odeslat zpětnou vazbuPokud chcete vyhledat podrobnosti, zadejte text

**Netflix** Oglądaj filmy, seriale i programy z serwisu Netflix online lub przesyłaj je do telewizora Smart TV, konsoli do gier, komputera PC bądź Mac, urządzenia przenośnego, tabletu i nie tylko

**Netflix Polska — oglądaj seriale i programy online, oglądaj filmy** Zaloguj się za pomocą danych swojego konta w witrynie netflix.com na komputerze lub na innym urządzeniu z dostępem do Internetu i zainstalowaną aplikacją Netflix, takim jak telewizor Smart

**Jak się zalogować w serwisie Netflix | Centrum pomocy Netflix** Zaloguj się w serwisie Netflix na telewizorze, telefonie, tablecie lub komputerze

**Jak zaktualizować dane konta Netflix? | Centrum pomocy Netflix** Aby zaktualizować dane swojego konta w serwisie Netflix, wykonaj opisane poniżej czynności

**Centrum pomocy Netflix** Dowiedz się, jak zalogować się do serwisu Netflix i z niego korzystać. Uzyskaj pomoc dotyczącą konta, instrukcje rozwiązywania problemów oraz odpowiedzi na pytania

**Nie mogę zalogować się do serwisu Netflix** Jeśli masz problem z logowaniem do konta w serwisie Netflix, wybierz opcję, która najbardziej odpowiada Twojemu problemowi

**Jak zarejestrować się w serwisie Netflix** Utwórz konto, wpisując swój adres e-mail i hasło. Jeśli korzystasz z aplikacji Netflix dla systemu Android, otrzymasz wiadomość e-mail z serwisu Netflix z prośbą o dokończenie rejestracji w

**Pierwsze kroki w Netflix | Centrum pomocy Netflix** Logowanie Po otwarciu aplikacji Netflix lub wejściu na naszą stronę wybierz opcję Zaloguj się, aby wejść na swoje konto i zacząć oglądać filmy, seriale i programy. Możesz zalogować się na

**Korzystanie z serwisu Netflix na komputerze lub tablecie z** Dowiedz się więcej o funkcjach serwisu Netflix na komputerze lub tablecie z systemem Windows, w tym o sposobie konfigurowania i wylogowywania się z konta

**Netflix** Watch Netflix movies & TV shows online or stream right to your smart TV, game console, PC, Mac, mobile, tablet and more

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