

**Institute for Curriculum Services (ICS) Review on behalf of
the Community Relations Council of Richmond,
the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, and
the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
National Geographic Learning, Cengage Learning,
U.S. History: American Stories, Beginnings to 1877,
Teacher edition, hard copy edition
by Fredrik Hiebert, Peggy Altoff, and Fritz Fischer
for middle grades
February 2018**

General Comments: This middle grades American History textbook covers Native American civilizations through 1877. The student text is very well-done, and offers interesting and age-appropriate content. It tells helpful stories about the sweep of American history in a concise compact format.

The publisher's continued efforts to ensure accuracy in its instructional materials, and to keep them informative and up-to-date for Virginia's students and teachers is appreciated.

This text was reviewed focusing on religion and Jews in American history. The identification of revolutionary war financier Haym Salomon as Jewish in the chapter on the American Revolution is to be commended.

Review Legend:

~~Strikethrough~~ = Recommended deletion

Underline = Recommended addition

Comments = Explanation and rationale provided to support recommendations

Chapter 12 Manifest Destiny, Lesson 4.2 The Gold Rush, p. 417, insert caption,

Change: "Levi Strauss's Blue Jeans One merchant who became rich during the gold rush was Levi Strauss. A Jewish German immigrant, he arrived in San Francisco in 1850. His goal was to manufacture tents and wagon covers for miners. But after noticing a demand for durable work pants, he began producing trousers made from the tent canvas he had purchased. People loved the pants. Strauss sold enough to open a factory and started to produce the pants using a denim cloth known as genes in French. Levi Strauss invented blue jeans and founded a company and unique American brand."

Comments: Just as the ethnic and national identities of other immigrant groups are identified, Levi Strauss should be identified as Jewish. Other immigrants are identified in this chapter as African American, Catholic, Chinese, Mexican, Mormon, Native American, Spanish-speaking Catholics, Russian, Spanish, Swedes, Swiss, Tejano, white Americans, Zuni, and so too the identity of Levi Strauss should also be named.