



## USA - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

By Gina Teague, Alan Beechey

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Who can afford not to understand the USA? Many facets of American life have been embraced around the world, yet the sense of “just like in the movies” familiarity that first-time visitors often feel can be misleading. Underneath the gleaming smile of American popular culture lies a rich and complex society that brims with contrasts and contradictions. It is a culture of rugged individualism, of go-getters, of high-tech high achievers. At the same time it is a deeply religious country with a quiet devotion to church and charitable works. This updated new edition of *Culture Smart! USA* also reveals a society in transition. The USA responded to the 9/11 attacks by embarking on two overseas wars, while at home the subprime mortgage crisis rippled through the economy, bringing the first African-American president to power during the biggest recession since the 1920s. In an increasingly polarized political and cultural climate, and with an ever widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, the rise of the social media has given more Americans a voice, from the Tea Party on the right to the Occupy Wall Street movement on the left. As Americans wake up to a changing world where their global economic dominance is no longer assured, attitudes and behavior are being challenged and reassessed across the land. *Culture Smart! USA* takes you on a tour of the core influences and ideals that have shaped this great country and have driven the behavior and attitudes found on Main Street and in the workplace. It looks at Americans at work, at home, and at play, and provides the visitor with an up-to-date cultural “road map” of this dynamic, multifaceted society.

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#### **Review**

Culture Smart! has come to the rescue of hapless travellers, Sunday Times Travel - ...the perfect introduction to the weird, wonderful and downright odd quirks and customs of various countries, Global Travel - ...full of fascinating, as well as common sense,

#### **About the Author**

**Gina Teague** is a trainer and writer on cross-cultural management, international relocation, and global career development. Born in the United Kingdom, she has lived and worked in France, Spain, Brazil, the USA, and Australia. During her sixteen years in America she developed a successful intercultural consultancy serving the corporate, academic, and non-profit sectors. She also gained an M.A. in Organizational Psychology and an Ed.M. in Counseling Psychology from Columbia University, and produced two “native New Yorker” children. Gina has written extensively on expatriate adjustment and career management issues for industry journals and Web sites. A cofounder of Isis Group International, an intercultural training company, she has recently relocated to Sydney, Australia. **Alan Beechey** was born in London and graduated from the University of Oxford with an M.A. in Psychology. His initial posting to New York nearly thirty years ago—as director of international communications for America’s largest bank—was intended to last two years. Since then he has specialized in business and marketing communications, both inside and outside Corporate America, working first for a leading human resources consulting firm, and then, for the last twenty years, as an independent consultant with blue-chip clients. He has also gained dual citizenship, three American children, and first-hand experience of life in central Manhattan and New York’s leafy suburbs. Alan runs workshops and is the author of the popular Oliver Swithin mystery series.

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