



Louisiana

Our History, Our Home





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Alecia P. Long

Teacher Wraparound Edition

Paul E. Binford


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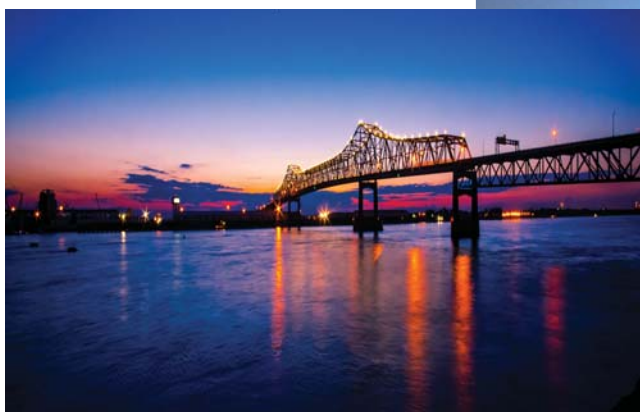
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To the Students

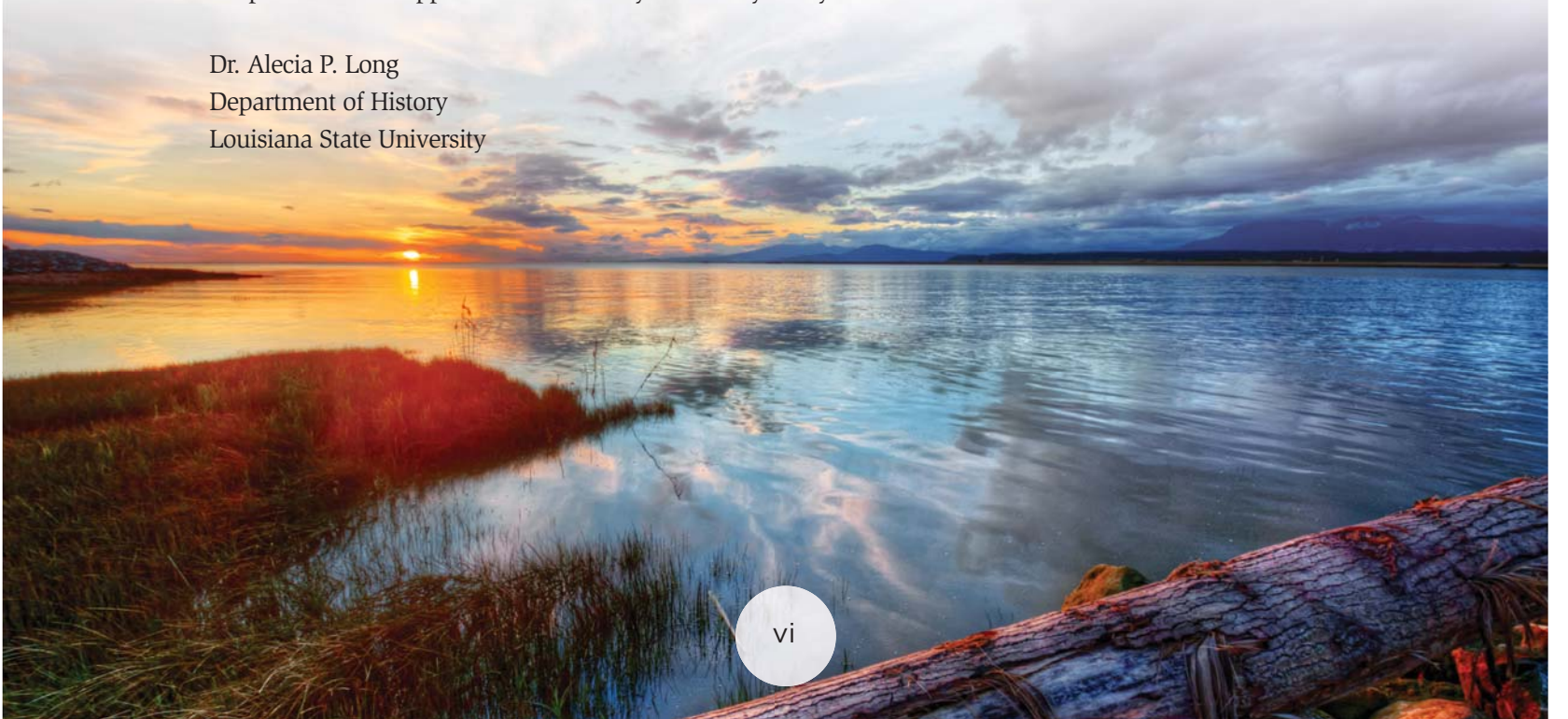
I have lived in Louisiana for almost twenty years, but I spent the first part of my life more than six hundred miles away, in an eastern Tennessee city named Knoxville. My hometown sits in a scenic valley near the Smoky Mountains. On a clear day, you can see those mountains in the distance. Even the fact that Tennessee has mountains suggests how different its geography is from Louisiana's. I was made aware of this fact on my first trip to your state, which took place when I was a nineteen-year-old student at the University of Tennessee. Some friends and I decided to travel to New Orleans to see our university play in the Sugar Bowl. We drove all night, and I remember waking up just after daybreak, as we were crossing Lake Pontchartrain. I fell in love with so much about New Orleans on that trip, and decided I would live there someday.

It took a lot of years to make that happen, but after many visits, I finally moved to New Orleans in 1997. The following year I was lucky enough to be offered a job at the Louisiana State Museum. Working there gave me the opportunity to learn about the state's history through the documents and the many beautiful paintings, drawings, and photographs in its collection. Working for the State Museum also gave me the chance to travel to many different parts of the state. Over time, my love for New Orleans expanded into a love for Louisiana and also into a deep affection for its people and its history.

Each of the following chapters begins with the story of a person, group, or set of events that took place in Louisiana. It is my hope that those introductions draw you in and help you develop an appreciation for some of the people who settled Louisiana, witnessed its history, and—in some cases—even changed that history through their actions.

As you read, you will learn that Louisiana's people have faced many difficult times, but they have done so with great resilience and a commitment to preserving the state's history and culture for future generations. You are the people for whom that history is being preserved. You are also the generation who will help to shape the state's future. Having a solid knowledge of Louisiana's history can help you figure out how you might like to participate in the state's future. Whatever choices you make about your own future, I hope the history of Louisiana provided here helps you develop a newfound appreciation for both your history and your home.

Dr. Alecia P. Long
Department of History
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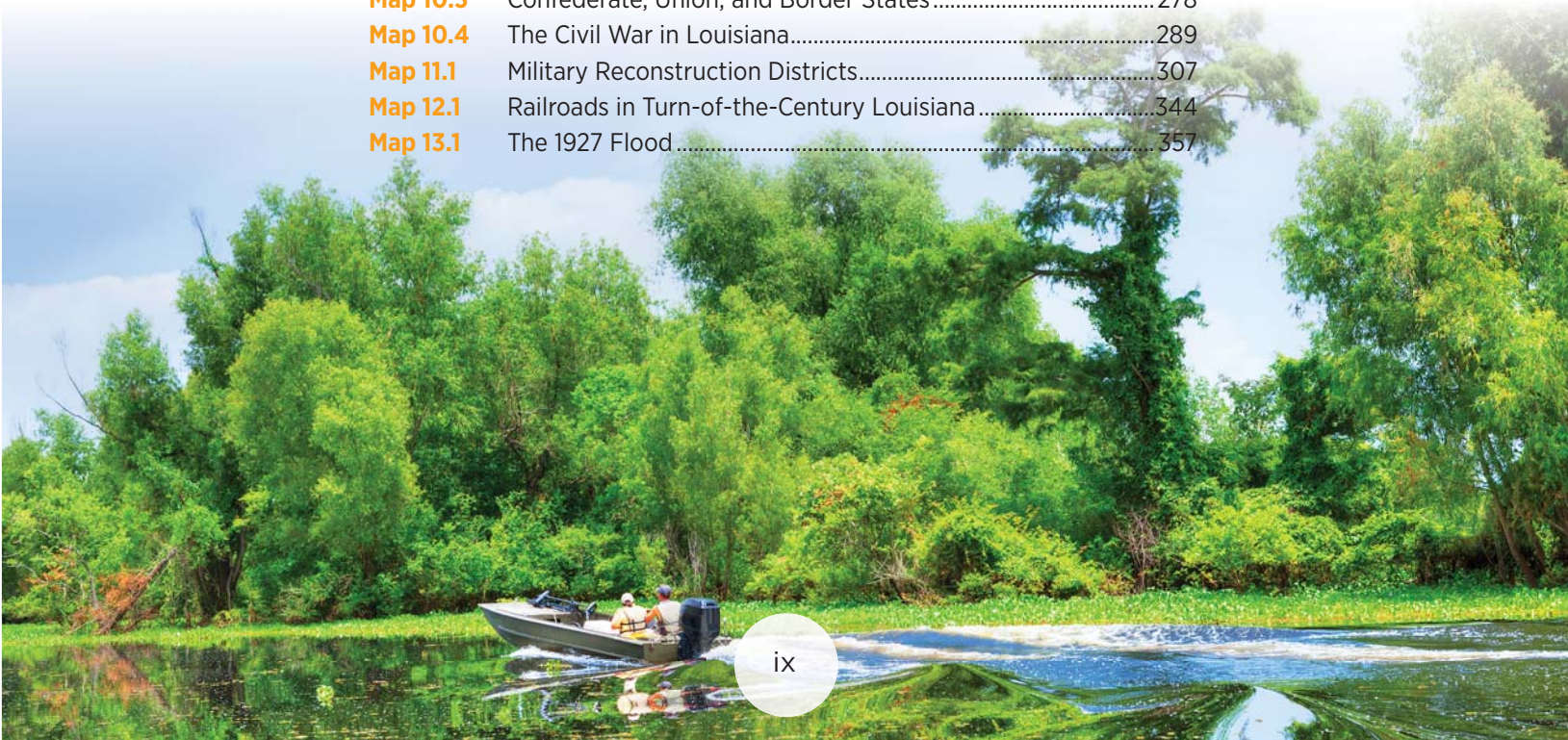
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Your study of Louisiana is not just about learning the past. It is about understanding life today and about getting the education that you need to be an informed citizen of our state for the future. It won't be long until you will have the opportunity to vote. Exercising your right to vote brings the responsibility to be informed about issues and candidates so that together we can build a better state.

Using the resources in this program, you can learn more and achieve at higher levels as you consider the complex history of Louisiana. Learning about government and citizenship is another important part of your education. Geography and economics play a role in our lives, too, and we will have many challenges ahead managing both our natural and human resources in ways that make our state the best it can be.

Studying this textbook and taking advantage of the features listed here will increase your knowledge. This knowledge will help you become a better student. More importantly, it will help you become a better citizen! Perhaps, one day, your name will be in a book like this one. Students in 22nd-century Louisiana may read about your contributions to improving our great state!

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This website is available during your year using this textbook. Your teacher will give you the password needed to access these great resources. From this site, you will have access to the following online resources.

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Internet Activities

Web-based research can give you a greater understanding of our state. With these Internet activities, you will have the opportunity to dig a little deeper into some of the topics that you are studying. Some of them may be a bit challenging, but they will help you think about life in Louisiana in new and different ways.

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To go along with each chapter and each presentation, you have access to pages that you can use for taking notes. You will find the key concepts from each chapter and section on the QuickNotes handout. Plus, there are blank lines for you to add your own notes. Use highlighters and/or markers and pens to focus your attention on the information most important to your learning.

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