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Zinn a people history summarys

1980 history book by Howard Zinn A People's History of the United States 2003 hardcover editionAuthorHoward ZinnCountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishSeriesA People's HistorySubjectEoriemerican, American politics, American foreign policy, American economicsPublisherHarper & amp; Row; HarperCollinsPublication data1980 (first edition); 2009 (most recent edition)Media typePrintPages729 pp (2003 edition)OCLC50622172LC ClassE178. Z75 2003 A People's History of the United States is a 1980 non-fiction book by American historian and political scientist. Howard Zinn. In the book, Zinn presented what he considered to be another part of history from the more traditional fundamental nationalist glorification of the country. [1] Zinn describes a side of American history that can be seen largely as exploiting and manipulating the majority through rigged systems that greatly favor a small aggregate of elite leaders from all Orthodox political parties. A history of the people has been attributed as reading in many high schools and colleges in the United States. [2] It also led to a change in the centre of historical works, which now includes stories that were previously ignored. [1] The book was second in 1980 to the National Book Award. It has been frequently reviewed, with the most recent edition covering events until 2005. In 2003, Zinn received the Amis du Monde Diplomatique Award for the French version of this book Una histoire populaire des États-Unis. [3] More than two million copies were sold. In a 1998 interview, Zinn said he had established the quiet revolution as a goal for writing a popular history. It is not a revolution in the classical sense of a seizure of power, but rather from people who are beginning to take power from within institutions. In the workplace, workers would take the power to control the conditions of their lives. [4] In 2004, Zinn edited a primary source company volume with Anthony Arnove entitled Voices of a People's History of the United States. The history of the people of the United States has been criticized by various experts and fellow historians. Critics, including Professor Chris Beneke and Randall J. Stephens, [5] report the glaring omissions of major historical episodes, uncritical dependence on biased sources, and non-exappability of opposing views. [6] Overview Part of a series of socialism in the History of the United States Utopian Socialism Bishop Hill Common Brook Farm Icarians Looking Back New Harmony Oneida Community Progressive Era 1877 St. General Strike Louis 1912 Lawrence Strike Textile Catholic Worker Movement Green Horn Rebellion Syndication Haymarket deal May Women's Day Suffrage Repression and Persecution American Defense Society American Protective League Communist Party U.S. and African-American Communists in the 1919-1937 1937-1957 movement 1917 First Red Scarecrow John John Society McCarthyism Seattle General Strike Smith Act Smith Act Anti-War Trials and Civil Rights Movements Black Power Circulation COINTELPRO Great Society I Have a Dream March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom New Left Poor People's Campaign War on Poverty Contemporary 1999 Seattle WTOM Protests Financial Crisis of 20 07-08 Occupy Wall Street People Abern Andrews Avrich Balagroon Barnes Bellamy (Edward) Bellamy (Francis) Berger Berkman Bookchin Brooks Browder Cachet Carmichael Carter Chomsky Clayre Davis Day Debs By Leon Dobbs Dreiser Du Bois Einstein Fearing Ford Foster Galleani Gitlow Goldman Graeber Greene Guthrie Hall Hammett Hampton Harrington Haywood (Bill) Haywood (Harry) Hawkins Heewood (Angela) Heywood (Ezra) Hill Hillquit Hoan Hoffman Keller Labadie London Lovestone Lum McReynolds Moore Most Mitchell Ocasio-Cortez Ochs Owen Parenti Parsons (Albert) Parsons (Lucy) Randolph Ripley Reed Rocker Rustin Ruthenberg Sacco Sandburg Sanders Sawant Seale Seidel Shahtman Sinclair Sweezy Thomas Tucker Turner Vanzetti Warren West Wolf F Zeidler Zerzan Active Party Organizations American Labor Black Riders Liberation Party Communist Party U.S. Democratic Socialists of America Freedom Road Socialist Organization Freedom Party Socialist Party Green Party of the United States of America Industrial Workers of World Liberty Union Party for Socialism and Liberation Peas and Freedom Party Progressive Labor Party Redneck Revolutionary Revolt Communist Party, USA Social Democratic, USA Socialist Action Socialist Alternative Equality Party Socialist Party USA Socialist Rifle Association Party Spark Spartacyst League Workers World Party Working Class Party World Socialist Party United States Defunct organizations American Labour Party Black Panther Party Colorado Springs Socialists Communist League of America Party Of Workers Communist St. Socialist Democratic Party Democratic Party Socialist Democratic Party Organization Committee Farmer-Party Labour Human Rights Party International Socialist Organization Maoist Internationalist Movement New American Movement Proletarian Party of America Puerto Rican Social Democratic Party of Social Democratic America Socialist Party of America Socialist Party of America Socialist Party of America Students for a Democratic Society Weather Underground White Panther Party Workers Party of the United States Youth International Party Literature Appeal to Reason Daily Worker International Socialist Review Jacobin Jungle Looking Back Monopoly Capital Lunar Review Other America Voluntary Socialism? American Related Topics Anarchism Anarchism in the United States Anarcho-Communism Anarcho-Primitivism Anarcho-Syndicatism Socialism Democratic Anarchism Individualist Individualist Individualist in the United States History of Labor Laws Trade Unions Libertarian Socialism-Leninism Minimum Wage Mutualism Post-Left Anarchy Social Democracy Socialism Trotskyism Utopian Socialism Portal United States Portalvte In a Letter Responding to a Critical Review 2007 of Its History of Youth in the United States (a release of the title for Younger Readers) in The New York Times Book Review , Zinn wrote: My history ... describes the inspired struggle of those who fought against slavery and racism (Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Fannie Lou Hamer, Bob Moses), labour organizers who led strikes for the rights of working people (Big Bill Haywood, Mother Jones, César Chávez), socialists and others who protested against war and militarism (Eugene V. Debs, Helen Keller, Rev. Daniel Berrigan Cindy Sheehan). My hero is not Theodore Roosevelt, who loved war and congratulated a general after a massacre of Filipino villagers at the turn of the century, but Mark Twain, who denounced the massacre and satirized imperialism. [8] I want young people to understand that ours is a beautiful country, but it has been taken over by people who do not respect human rights or constitutional freedoms. Our people are essentially decent and caring, and our highest ideals are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, which says that we all have equal rights to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. The history of our country, I stress in my book, is a struggle, against corporate robber barons and war makers, to make these ideals a reality-and all of us, of any age, can find immense satisfaction in becoming part of it. [10] Critical Reception When the history of the people of the United States was published in 1980, the future historian of Columbia University Eric Foner revised it in The New York Times: Professor Zinn writes with a rare enthusiasm in lead prose of academic history, and his text is studded with quotations from labor leaders, war-resistant and runaway slaves. There are vivid descriptions of events that are usually ignored, such as the Great Railway Strike of 1877 and the brutal suppression of the Filipino independence movement at the beginning of this century. Professor Zinn's chapter on Vietnam - bringing to life once again the free-fire zones, secret bombings, massacres and cover-ups - should be necessary to read for a new generation of students now facing recruitment. However, the history of the people reflects a deeply pessimistic view of the American experience... Riots are either crushed, diverted or co-opted... Why such movements so often fail to achieve their goals is never explained in Appropriate... The portrayal of these anonymous Americans, moreover, is oddly circumscribed. Blacks, Indians, women and workers either as rebels or as victims. Less dramatic but more typical lives – people who struggle to survive with dignity in difficult circumstances – receive little attention. Nor does Professor Zinn stop to explore the ideologies that inspired the various riots he details. Foner goes on noting that history from the bottom up, though necessary as a correction, is as limited in its way as top-down history. What is needed, Foner says, is an integrated account that incorporates Thomas Jefferson and his slaves, Andrew Jackson, and the Indians, Woodrow Wilson and The Wobblies, into a continuous historical process in which each group's experience is largely shaped by its relationship with others. [11] Writing in The New York Times, columnist Bob Herbert wrote: Mr. Zinn was often taken to task to unhide the pink veneer of a large dimension of American history to reveal the sordid realities that remained hidden for too long. [12] Herbert cites From Zinn's account of Andrew Jackson's presidency as an example of what he meant. [12] Also, writing for The New York Times, columnist Michael Powell praised the impact of the text on changing the perspective of modern histories: describing it as a revisionist account had no allure: focused on what he saw as Christopher Columbus' genocidal depredations. Theodore Roosevelt's lust for blood, and Abraham Lincoln's racial failures. He also shone a keen light on the revolutionary battles of poor farmers, feminists, workers and the resistance of slavery and war. Such stories are more often told in today's textbooks; they weren't at the time, [13] Writing in Dissidence, Georgetown University's history professor, Michael Kazin, argued that Zinn was too focused on class conflicts and wrongly attributed sinister motives to the American political elite. He characterized the book as an overly simplistic narrative of elite villains and oppressed people, without trying to understand historical actors in the context of the time they lived in. Kazin wrote: The ironic effect of such portraits of rulers is to rob people of cultural wealth and variety. features that could earn the respect and not just the sympathy of contemporary readers. For Zinn. ordinary Americans seem to live only to fight the rich and smug and, inevitably, to be fooled by them. [14] Kazin argued that A People's History does not explain why the American political-economic model continues to attract millions of minorities, women, workers and immigrants, or why the socialist and radical political movements Zinn favor have not to gain broad support among the American public. Inote 1 Writing in The Chronicle of Higher Education. Christopher Phelps. Associate Professor of American Studies at the School of American and Canadian at the University of Nottingham wrote: Professional historians often saw Zinn's work with exasperation or condescension, and Zinn was not innocent in dynamics. I stood by the wall for a Zinn discussion at the University of Oregon around 1992 Columbus Ouincentenary. Listening to Zinn, it would have been thought that historians still thought that Samuel Eliot Morison's 1955 book on Columbus was final. The crowd hit him, but Zinn knew better. He missed a chance to explain how social movements in the 1960s and 1970s transformed the writing and teaching of history, how its popular history did not emerge from the thin air, but it was an effort to synthesize a widespread common shift in historical sensibilities. Zinn's historical torization, confining objectivity with neutrality and position with prejudice, was no better. Critics would be churlish, however, not to recognize the touching zinn example given in civil rights and Vietnam movements, and it would be negligent not to note the value of the history of the A people, along with its limitations. Zinn told good stories, stories that, though familiar to historians, have often remained unknown to the general public. He challenged national pieties and encouraged critical reflection about the wisdom received. He understood that America's various radicalisms, far from being non-American, propelled the nation towards more humane and democratic arrangements. And he sold two million copies of a work of history in a culture that increasingly does not want to read and, consequently, unable to imagine his past very well. [16] In The New York Times Book Review in a review of A Young People's History Of The United States, Volumes 1 and 2, novelist Walter Kirn wrote: That America is no better place – that it finds itself almost contempted globally, bogged down in war, self-doubt and random violence – is also a fact, of course, but not one of which Zinn's historical mark seems equal. His stick-figure capitalist box-to-face contest can account for terrorism in fashion – as when, in the second volume. subtitled Class Struggle to the War on Terror, he observes that September 11th was an assault on the symbols of American wealth and power – but it doesn't address the themes of religious deguality, technological change and cultural confusion that animates what I was taught in high school to label current events, but which contemporary students may as well call weirdness. The line from Columbus to Columbine, from the first Independence Day to the Internet, and from Boston Tea Party to Baghdad is a wandering line, not a party line. As far as new possibilities are concerned, I cannot see them clearly. [7] Professors Michael Kazin and Michael Kammen condemn the book as a story of elite villains and oppressed victims, a story that steals American history from its depth and complexity and leaves nothing but simplified blank text at the level of propaganda. [14] [17] Other editions and related works A version of the book entitled Twentieth Century contains only chapters 12-25 (Empire and the People at The 2000 Selection and the War on Terrorism). Although originally meant to be an extension of the original book, recent editions of People's History now contain all subsequent chapters of it. In 2004, Zinn and Anthony Arnove published a collection of over 200 primary source documents entitled Voices of The People's History of the United States, available both as a book and as a CD with dramatic readings. Writer Aaron Sarver notes that although Kazin savad Zinn's A People's History of the United States, one of the few concessions kazin made was his approval of Zinn punctuating his narrative with hundreds of guotes from slaves and populists, anonymous employees and... articulated radicals'. [18] Whether Zinn intended it or not, Voices serves as a useful response to Kazin's criticism. According to Sarver, Voices is a vast anthology that tells heartbreaking and uplifting stories of American history. Kazin will be hard pressed to accuse Zinn of politicizing intelligence here; the volume provides only Zinn's rare introductions for each play, leaving the actors and their words to speak for themselves. [18] In 2008, Zinn worked with Mike Konopacki and Paul Buhle on creating a popular history of the American Empire, a graphic novel covering various historical topics extracted from the History of the People of the United States, as well as Zinn's own history of his involvement in activism and historical events, as included in his autobiography, You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train. Zinn worked as an editor for a number of books under the label A People's History. This series extends to historical issues and events covered in the History of the People of the United States, giving them in-depth coverage, and also covers the history of parts of the world outside the United States. These books include: [required citation] A History of the People at the Supreme Court by Peter Irons with word before Zinn [19] A popular history of sport in the United States by Dave Zirin with an introduction by Howard Zinn's History of American Empire by Howard Zinn, Mike Konopacki, and Paul Buhle Darker Nations: A History of the People of the Third World by Vijay Prashad A Popular History of the American Revolution by Ray Raphael A History of the People of Civil War by David Williams A popular history of the Vietnam War by Jonathan Neale Mexican Revolution: A popular history by Adolfo Gilly Other books were also inspired by the series: A People's History of Australia from 1788 to the present edited by Verity Burgmann. A series of four volumes that analyze Australian history thematically, not chronologically. History of scientists: miners, Low Mehanks by Clifford D Connor. A popular history of the world by Chris Harman. It is approved by Zinn. A Popular History of Christianity by Diana Butler Bass. A People's History of Modern Europe by William A. Pelz Younger readers' version In July 2007 Seven Stories Press released A Young People's History of the United States, an illustrated twovolume adaptation of A People's History for young adult readers (aged 10 to 14). The new version, adapted from the original text by Rebecca Stefoff, is updated by the end of 2006 and includes a new introduction and afterword by Zinn. In his introduction, Zinn writes, I find it wrong to treat young readers as if they are not mature enough to look at their nation's policies honestly. I'm not worried about disillusioning young people by pointing to the flaws of traditional heroes. In the afterword, Rise as Lions, he asks young readers to imagine the United American people for the first time in a move for fundamental change. In addition, New Press released an updated version (2007) of The Wall Charts for A People's History — a two-piece folding poster with an illustrated timeline of US history with an explanatory booklet. Classroom Lessons In 2008, the Zinn Education Project was launched to promote and support the use of the history of the people of the United States (and other materials) for teaching in middle and high school classrooms in the USA. The goal of the project is to offer American students the Zinn version of U.S. history. [20] With funds from an anonymous donor who was a student of Zinn's, the project began by distributing 4,000 packages to teachers from all over the states and territories. The project now offers teaching guides and bibliographies that can be downloaded free of charge. [21] Current editions Zinn, Howard (2005). 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ISBN 978-1-56584-171-0 See, also, The People Peak (film), the 2009 film produced and narrated by Howard Zinn and inspired by a history of the United States : Wall charts; designed by Howard Zinn and George Kirschner; New Press (2007). ISBN 978-1-56584-171-0 See, also, The People Peak (film), the 2009 film produced and narrated by Howard Zinn and Inspired by a history of the United States is the United States in the People Peak (film) and the Peopl of the people of the United States and the voices of the history of a people in the United States a patriot's History of the United States: From Columbus's Great Discovery to the War on Terror, written as a conservative response to A Popular History of the United States Untold History in the United States, a 2012 documentary series directed, produced, and narrated by Oliver Stone Page Smith wrote a history of eight volumes of the same title, the first volume of which appeared in 1976, four years before Zinn's book was published We, America's People Drama, a Marxist history of the United States by Leo Huberman (1932) People's history Notes ^ While Zinn may not have been able to explain this second fact in his book on the reason for which there has never been a radical spread left in America, he responded to a similar point in a lecture he gave to MIT in 2005. 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