



Voices of a People's History of the United States

By Howard Zinn, Anthony Arnove

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Here in their own words are Frederick Douglass, George Jackson, Chief Joseph, Martin Luther King Jr., Plough Jogger, Sacco and Vanzetti, Patti Smith, Bruce Springsteen, Mark Twain, and Malcolm X, to name just a few of the hundreds of voices that appear in *Voices of a People's History of the United States*, edited by Howard Zinn and Anthony Arnove.

Paralleling the twenty-four chapters of Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*, *Voices of a People's History* is the long-awaited companion volume to the national bestseller. For *Voices*, Zinn and Arnove have selected testimonies to living history—speeches, letters, poems, songs—left by the people who make history happen but who usually are left out of history books—women, workers, nonwhites. Zinn has written short introductions to the texts, which range in length from letters or poems of less than a page to entire speeches and essays that run several pages. *Voices of a People's History* is a symphony of our nation's original voices, rich in ideas and actions, the embodiment of the power of civil disobedience and dissent wherein lies our nation's true spirit of defiance and resilience.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Howard Zinn is famous primarily for *A People's History of the United States*, the book in which he presented alternative versions of American milestones, including Columbus's "discovery" of the New World. *Voices of a People's History of the United States* is the follow-up to that original landmark work, but where *People's History* contained Zinn's interpretations of events, *Voices* turns the platform over to others, in a collection of first-hand accounts, journal entries, speeches, personal letters, and published opinion pieces from the nation's history.

The purpose of Zinn's work, *Voices* included, is to engage in an act of political dissidence and activism. "What is common to all of these voices," Zinn and co-editor Anthony Arnove write in the book's introduction, "is that they have mostly been shut out of the orthodox histories, the major media, the standard textbooks, the controlled culture ... to create a passive citizenry." With *Voices*, Zinn and Arnove seek to address that malaise, showing that the impossible--slaves rising up against their slave masters, for example--is not only possible, but has occurred repeatedly throughout the country's history. "Whenever injustices have been remedied, wars halted, women and blacks and Native Americans given their due," they write, "it has been because 'unimportant' people spoke up, organized, protested, and brought democracy alive." The common thread throughout *Voices* is this mandate, and each selection is preceded by a brief introduction by the authors, written from a far-left perspective. (As an example, one section is titled "The Carter-Reagan-Bush Consensus.")

Voices often works better as a reference book than a sit-down-to-read title. Its early chapters--on Columbus, slavery, the War of Independence, and the early women's movement--tend to be more engaging than later excerpts, largely because a contrary point of view to mainstream mythology has been so rarely heard. The modern sections have a haphazard, "greatest hits of the left" feeling, as the book jumps from an Abbie Hoffman speech to the lyrics of Public Enemy's "Fight the Power." The problem may be inherent in the format of the book. Everything is treated equally, and a speech by Danny Glover is given as much weight as an excerpt from W.E.B. DuBois's *The Souls of Black Folk*. For context and background, it's best to stick with the original *People's History*, but to hear the words right from the speakers' mouths, there's no better resource than *Voices*. --Jennifer Buckendorff

Review

"Voices really captures the voices as if they were speaking right to us over the years and all the differences. It calls on us to add our own voices and, quite apart from its value as a learning tool, that may be its greatest contribution."-- Paul Buhle, Z Magazine

Voices of a People's History of the United States should be required reading for every individual lucky enough to call America home."-- Scott Thill, Salon.com

About the Author

The visionary historical work of professor and activist HOWARD ZINN (1922–2010) is widely considered

one of the most important and influential of our era. After his experience as a bombardier in World War II, Zinn became convinced that there could no longer be such a thing as a “just war,” because the vast majority of victims in modern warfare are, increasingly, innocent civilians. In his books, including *A People’s History of the United States*, its companion volume *Voices of a People’s History of the United States*, and countless other titles, Zinn affirms the power of the people to influence the course of events.

Users Review

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Jeannine Ricks:

The book *Voices of a People's History of the United States* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading a book *Voices of a People's History of the United States* to become your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open up and read a guide *Voices of a People's History of the United States*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

Susan Ross:

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or data even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what one you should start with. This *Voices of a People's History of the United States* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Amelia Page:

Voices of a People's History of the United States can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into pleasure arrangement in writing *Voices of a People's History of the United States* although doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Stephanie Carter:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The actual book that

recommended for you is *Voices of a People's History of the United States* this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how do the world has grown up. The words styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some exploration when he makes this book. That's why this book ideal all of you.

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