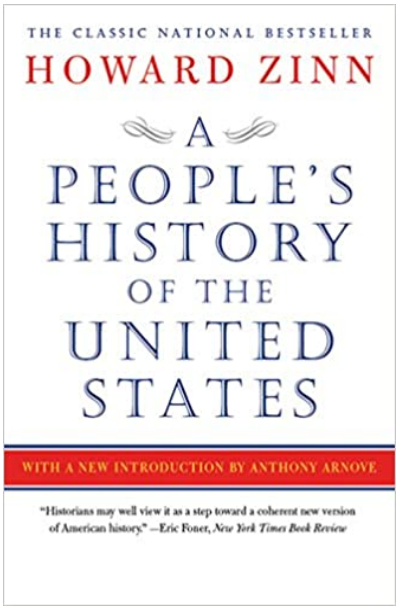
A People’s History of the United States Book Summary (PDF) by Howard Zinn

Ready to learn the most important takeaways from A People’s History of the United States in less than two minutes? Keep reading!



Why This Book Matters:

A People’s History of the United States takes us through history from the perspective of minorities and others who were alienated.

The Big Takeaways:

1. **Historians generally do not touch on the fact that America has put natives through genocide.**
    1. If History is often written from the perspective of the “winners,” or those who have prevailed.
2. **The United States government was built by wealthy landowners for themselves and that tradition continues today.**
    1. Much of the constitution consists of protecting landowners and does not even mention those other

than wealthy, white men.

3. **Women were treated horribly in the early days of America, but eventually began to rally.**
    1. Post Revolution, women began learning how to read and write, and doubled their literacy rate to 80% within a few decades.
4. **The Civil War was fought to maintain the status of the country, not to end slavery.**
    1. Former slave owners were compensated for the loss of slaves, while former slaves were left to fend for themselves.
5. **Rather than liberating the oppressed, the American government answered the civil rights movement with suppression.**
    1. Laws that were eventually passed still discriminated against minorities, specifically African Americans.

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