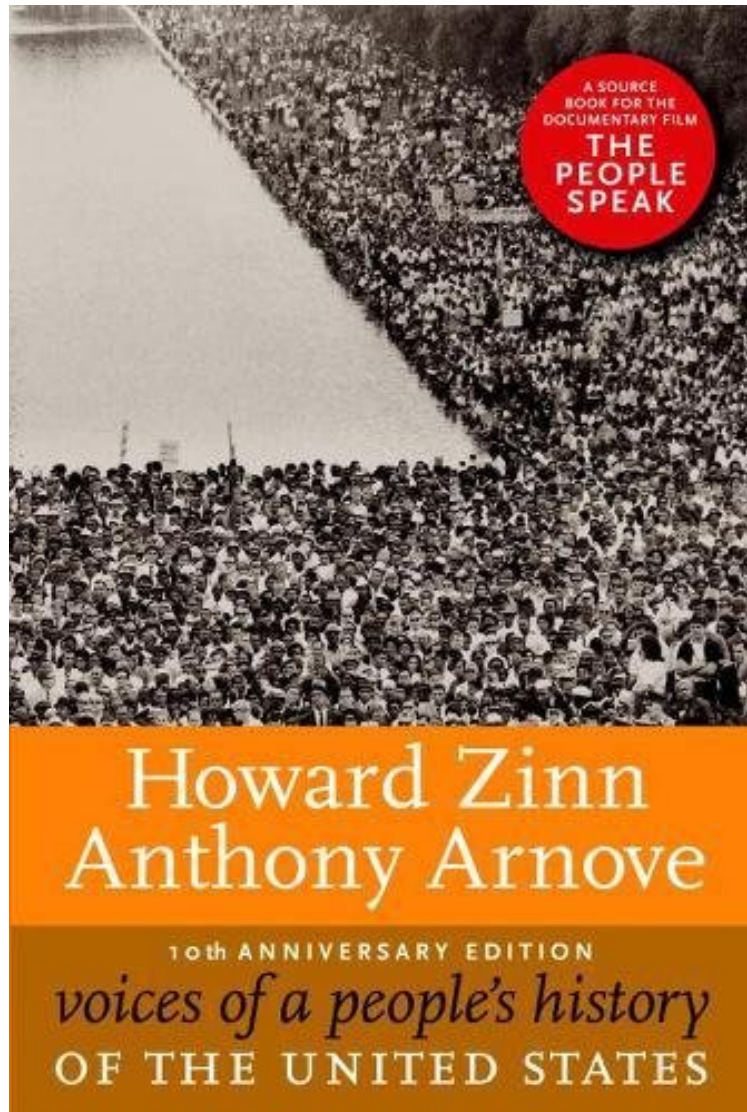


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# Voices of a People's History of the United States, 10th Anniversary Edition

Howard Zinn, Anthony Arnove

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**Howard Zinn, Anthony Arnove : Voices of a People's History of the United States, 10th Anniversary Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voices of a People's History of the United States, 10th Anniversary Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I did not like the format of it for studying purposesBy kimmi103191I bought this book because it was my history text book and i needed to. I did not like the format of it for

studying purposes. It would do better for general reading because in that regard it was interesting. It basically a bunch of first person accounts of events taken place in history which is interesting. First person accounts are not the same as facts though because how you are feeling at the time for an event isn't the same as the facts of the event and this book would have been easier to study if there was more than 1 paragraph before each 1st person account explaining what is happening. 20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. A strong intellectual perturbation by Dr. Lee D. Carlson. History is sometimes written with the goal of documenting the attitudes or opinions of a particular class of people, such as the intellectuals, the politicians, the scientists, or the warriors. Each of these groups has made important contributions to human accomplishment, which should not be forgotten or discarded under the guise of some egalitarian or multicultural reading of history. But when the stories of these groups are documented in history, too often other voices are deafened, and these voices represent the vast majority of historical participants. It is not enough to view history through the eyes of intellectuals, politicians, or warriors. For an historical account to be meaningful, it must offer insight into the collaborations, opinions, belief structures, and longings of those who chose not to become famous, but instead chose to indulge themselves in the unique fascinations that each historical epoch possesses. But because most humans throughout history did not record their experiences, the historian is left wanting for accurate appraisals of these experiences. Diaries, journals, and other personal writings can assist the historian in this regard, and there have been many uses of these throughout the historical literature. It is important to remember though that because of the paucity of these personal documents, one should not be too hasty in imputing the opinions of their authors to the entire population at the time. One cannot view them as representing the "voices of the people" without establishing this with (difficult) statistical analysis. Sometimes however these documents were written more as a catharsis, as a way of expressing, in a strong and determined way, an idea, grievance, or opposition to the status quo. The opening quotation in the book by Frederick Douglass reinforces this view, for in that quotation Douglass essentially states that power must be challenged before it can be defeated (Douglass does not want to stop with mere words though, for in the same quotation he asserts the need for physical confrontation if necessary). It is in this light that this book should be read. It is a collection of essays and letters that reveal attitudes that are not the typical ones that one would be exposed to in United States secondary schools. Those readers familiar with the author's earlier book on United States history will appreciate this book even more, but both can be read independently of each other. This is not a book that will please the elitist historian who discounts any view of history that does not magnify the contributions of intellectuals or military leaders over and above the "common" person. It is a book for those who are genuinely interested in the moods and aspirations of the people of a given time, if only from a limited vantage point. It will certainly upset the intellectual equilibrium of anyone who holds to a view of American history that has been sanitized by the educational establishment. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful. A Great Companion to A People's History of the United States. By Lavender. I read from this book constantly. The speeches included truly bring history to life by providing the actual words of the actors involved in the events. It underscores the personal convictions of the individuals, their intelligence and their passion. This book is informative and inspirational. I never fail to feel revived and encouraged by reading these chronicles of individual participation in the betterment of the person and the society. One of my favorite books!

Selected testimonies to living history: speeches, letters, poems, songs offered by the people who make history happen, but are often left out of history books: women, workers, nonwhites. Featuring introductions to the original texts by Howard Zinn. New voices featured in this 10th Anniversary Edition include Chelsea Manning, speaking after her 35-year prison sentence; Naomi Klein, speaking from the Occupy Wall Street encampment in Liberty Square; a member of Dream Defenders, a youth organization that confronts systemic racial inequality; members of the Undocumented Youth movement, who occupied, marched, and demonstrated in support of the DREAM Act; a member of the Day Laborers movement; Chicago Teachers Union strikers; and several critics of the Obama administration, including Glenn Greenwald, on governmental secrecy.

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

*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 Peoples History of the United States* should be required reading for every individual lucky enough to call America home. Scott Thill, *Salon.com*