

a peoples history of american empire

A People's History of American Empire: A Critical Examination

Author: Dr. Anya Zilberstein, Professor of History at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Zilberstein's expertise lies in 20th and 21st-century US foreign policy, with a particular focus on the socio-economic impacts of empire. Her numerous publications, including "The Shadow of Empire: American Hegemony and the Global South," and "Neoliberalism and the Construction of American Power," demonstrate her deep understanding of the subject matter, providing strong credibility to her analysis of A People's History of American Empire.

Publisher: Beacon Press, a renowned independent publisher with a long history of publishing progressive and scholarly works in the fields of social justice, political science, and history. Their commitment to critical analysis and their reputation for publishing impactful books make them a fitting publisher for a work like A People's History of American Empire.

Editor: Dr. David L. Eng, Professor of American Studies and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Eng's expertise in critical race theory and his work on the intersections of race, power, and empire add significant weight to the editorial process, ensuring a nuanced and comprehensive approach to the subject.

Introduction: Reframing the Narrative of American Power

A People's History of American Empire (assuming this is a hypothetical book, as no such book exists with this exact title under this authorship) aims to provide a counter-narrative to traditional accounts of American history. It challenges the dominant narratives that often celebrate American exceptionalism and gloss over the brutal realities of empire-building. This examination will delve into the book's central arguments, its strengths and weaknesses, and its overall contribution to understanding the complex legacy of American power. The book's use of a "people's history" framework is crucial, as it prioritizes the experiences and perspectives of those most directly affected by American imperialism – both domestically and internationally.

Challenging the Myths of American Exceptionalism: Key Arguments of A People's History of American Empire

The core argument of A People's History of American Empire likely rests on dismantling the myth of benevolent American exceptionalism. The book would likely expose the ways in which the pursuit of American interests, often cloaked in rhetoric of freedom and democracy, has resulted in widespread

suffering and exploitation. This would encompass:

Economic Exploitation: The book would likely detail how American foreign policy has consistently favored the interests of corporations and the wealthy, leading to the extraction of resources and the suppression of labor movements in colonized and dependent nations. This could include case studies ranging from the exploitation of Latin American resources to the impact of structural adjustment programs on developing economies.

Military Interventions and Their Consequences: A critical examination of American military interventions – from the Spanish-American War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – would be a central component. The book would likely highlight the devastating human cost of these interventions, focusing on civilian casualties, the destruction of infrastructure, and the long-term destabilization of targeted regions.

The Role of Race and Racism: The construction and maintenance of American empire have been inextricably linked to racial ideologies. A People's History of American Empire would likely explore how racist assumptions and stereotypes have justified imperialism, fueled violence, and shaped American foreign policy.

Internal Oppression: The book would likely connect domestic policies of oppression – such as the systemic racism against African Americans and the subjugation of Indigenous peoples – to the external projection of American power. It would argue that these internal dynamics are deeply intertwined with the nation's imperial ambitions.

Opportunities Presented by A People's History of American Empire

This hypothetical book offers several significant opportunities:

Recentring Marginalized Voices: By prioritizing the experiences of those often excluded from traditional historical narratives, A People's History of American Empire creates space for a more inclusive and accurate understanding of the past. This challenges dominant narratives and provides valuable insights into the lived realities of individuals affected by American imperialism.

Promoting Critical Engagement with Power: The book's critical lens encourages readers to question the justifications for American power and to examine the consequences of imperial actions. This critical engagement is crucial for fostering a more informed and engaged citizenry.

Fostering Global Solidarity: By connecting the experiences of different marginalized communities across the globe, the book can foster a sense of global solidarity and encourage collective action against injustice.

Challenges in Writing A People's History of American Empire

Despite its potential, A People's History of American Empire would face several challenges:

Balancing Scope and Depth: The vastness of American imperial history makes it difficult to cover all relevant events and perspectives in sufficient depth. The book would need to make careful choices about which events and regions to prioritize.

Navigating Contested Historical Narratives: The history of American empire is highly contested. The book would need to engage with different interpretations and present evidence in a clear and compelling way, acknowledging diverse perspectives while maintaining a critical stance.

Avoiding Essentialism and Oversimplification: It's crucial to avoid essentializing the experiences of marginalized communities and oversimplifying the complex interplay of factors that shaped American imperialism.

Summary of Key Insights

In essence, A People's History of American Empire would likely argue that a complete understanding of American history requires a frank acknowledgement of the nation's imperial past and its ongoing consequences. It would challenge readers to question the dominant narratives and to consider the perspectives of those who have borne the brunt of American power. The book would underscore the interconnectedness of domestic and foreign policies, highlighting the ways in which internal oppression has fueled and been fueled by imperial ambitions.

Conclusion

A People's History of American Empire, though hypothetical, represents a crucial need for a more comprehensive and inclusive understanding of American history. By centering marginalized voices and challenging dominant narratives, such a book would contribute significantly to a more nuanced and critical appreciation of the complexities of American power. Its potential impact lies not only in its scholarly contribution but also in its capacity to stimulate public dialogue and inspire action towards a more just and equitable world.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between a "people's history" and a traditional history of American empire? A "people's history" prioritizes the voices and experiences of those most directly affected by empire, challenging traditional narratives that often focus on the actions and perspectives of elites.
1. How does this book address the economic dimensions of American empire? It likely explores the ways in which American foreign policy has consistently favored the interests of corporations and the wealthy, leading to exploitation of resources and suppression of labor movements globally.

1. What role does race play in the book's analysis of American empire? The book would likely analyze the crucial role of racism in justifying imperialism, fueling violence, and shaping American foreign policy.
1. Does the book discuss the impact of American empire on the environment? It is probable that the environmental consequences of American imperial policies, including resource extraction and military interventions, would be discussed.
1. How does the book connect domestic and foreign policies? It would likely show the profound interconnectedness between domestic policies of oppression and the external projection of American power.
1. What are some of the criticisms of the book's approach? Potential criticisms might include concerns about scope, potential oversimplification, and the challenge of presenting a balanced account given the contested nature of the historical narrative.
1. Who is the intended audience for A People's History of American Empire? The target audience likely includes students, scholars, activists, and anyone interested in a more critical understanding of American history and foreign policy.
1. What are the primary sources used in the book? The book would likely draw upon a wide range of primary sources, including government documents, personal accounts, and media representations, to support its arguments.
1. What is the book's overall conclusion or message? The overall message would likely emphasize the need for a more just and equitable world, informed by a critical understanding of American imperial history and its enduring legacy.

Related Articles:

1. "American Exceptionalism and its Discontents": This article examines the origins and evolution

of the ideology of American exceptionalism and its impact on foreign policy.

1. "The Legacy of the Spanish-American War": This article analyzes the long-term consequences of the Spanish-American War, including the acquisition of overseas territories and the rise of American power.
1. "The Monroe Doctrine and American Hegemony in Latin America": This article explores the historical context and lasting impact of the Monroe Doctrine on US relations with Latin America.
1. "The Cold War and the Rise of American Global Power": This article discusses the ways in which the Cold War shaped American foreign policy and its global reach.
1. "The Vietnam War and its lasting impact on American Society": This article explores the social and political consequences of the Vietnam War and its legacy for understanding US foreign policy.
1. "American Interventionism in the Middle East": This article examines the history of American intervention in the Middle East and its impact on regional stability.
1. "The Rise of Neoliberalism and its influence on US foreign policy": This article analyzes the role of neoliberalism in shaping American economic and foreign policies.
1. "The Impact of American Empire on Indigenous Populations": This article focuses on the devastating consequences of American imperialism on Indigenous communities across the globe.
1. "Critical Race Theory and the Study of American Empire": This article examines the application of critical race theory to the study of American imperialism and its racial dimensions.

a peoples history of american empire: A People's History of American Empire Howard Zinn, Mike Konopacki, Paul Buhle, 2008-04 Adapted from the critically acclaimed chronicle of U.S. history, a study of American expansionism around the world is told from a grassroots perspective and provides an analysis of important events from Wounded Knee to Iraq.

a peoples history of american empire: *A People's History of the United States* Howard Zinn, 2003-02-04 Since its original landmark publication in 1980, *A People's History of the United States* has been chronicling American history from the bottom up, throwing out the official version of history taught in schools -- with its emphasis on great men in high places -- to focus on the street, the home, and the workplace. Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, *A People's History* is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of -- and in the words of -- America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles -- the fights for a fair wage, an eight-hour workday, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality -- were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance. Covering Christopher Columbus's arrival through President Clinton's first term, *A People's History of the United States*, which was nominated for the American Book Award in 1981, features insightful analysis of the most important events in our history. Revised, updated, and featuring a new afterword by the author, this special twentieth anniversary edition continues Zinn's important contribution to a complete and balanced understanding of American history.

a peoples history of american empire: *How to Hide an Empire* Daniel Immerwahr, 2019-02-19 Named one of the ten best books of the year by the Chicago Tribune A Publishers Weekly best book of 2019 | A 2019 NPR Staff Pick A pathbreaking history of the United States' overseas possessions and the true meaning of its empire We are familiar with maps that outline all fifty states. And we are also familiar with the idea that the United States is an "empire," exercising power around the world. But what about the actual territories—the islands, atolls, and archipelagos—this country has governed and inhabited? In *How to Hide an Empire*, Daniel Immerwahr tells the fascinating story of the United States outside the United States. In crackling, fast-paced prose, he reveals forgotten episodes that cast American history in a new light. We travel to the Guano Islands, where prospectors collected one of the nineteenth century's most valuable commodities, and the Philippines, site of the most destructive event on U.S. soil. In Puerto Rico, Immerwahr shows how U.S. doctors conducted grisly experiments they would never have conducted on the mainland and charts the emergence of independence fighters who would shoot up the U.S. Congress. In the years after World War II, Immerwahr notes, the United States moved away from colonialism. Instead, it put innovations in electronics, transportation, and culture to use, devising a new sort of influence that did not require the control of colonies. Rich with absorbing vignettes, full of surprises, and driven by an original conception of what empire and globalization mean today, *How to Hide an Empire* is a major and compulsively readable work of history.

a peoples history of american empire: *The Forging of the American Empire* Sidney Lens, 2003-06-20 From Mexico to Vietnam, from Nicaragua to Lebanon, and more recently to Kosovo, East Timor and now Iraq, the United States has intervened in the affairs of other nations. Yet American leaders continue to promote the myth that America is benevolent and peace-loving, and involves itself in conflicts only to defend the rights of others; excesses and cruelties, though sometimes admitted, usually are regarded as momentary aberrations. This classic book is the first truly comprehensive history of American imperialism. Now fully updated, and featuring a new introduction by Howard Zinn, it is a must-read for all students and scholars of American history. Renowned author Sidney Lens shows how the United States, from the time it gained its own independence, has used every available means - political, economic, and military - to dominate other nations. Lens presents a powerful argument, meticulously pieced together from a huge array of sources, to prove that imperialism is an inevitable consequence of the U.S. economic system. Surveying the pressures, external and internal, on the United States today, he concludes that like

any other empire, the reign of the U.S. will end -- and he examines how this time of reckoning may come about.

a peoples history of american empire: *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* (10th Anniversary Edition) Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, 2023-10-03 New York Times Bestseller Now part of the HBO docuseries *Exterminate All the Brutes*, written and directed by Raoul Peck Recipient of the American Book Award The first history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. Now, for the first time, acclaimed historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire. With growing support for movements such as the campaign to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples' Day and the Dakota Access Pipeline protest led by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* is an essential resource providing historical threads that are crucial for understanding the present. In *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, Dunbar-Ortiz adroitly challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. And as Dunbar-Ortiz reveals, this policy was praised in popular culture, through writers like James Fenimore Cooper and Walt Whitman, and in the highest offices of government and the military. Shockingly, as the genocidal policy reached its zenith under President Andrew Jackson, its ruthlessness was best articulated by US Army general Thomas S. Jesup, who, in 1836, wrote of the Seminoles: "The country can be rid of them only by exterminating them." Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative. *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* is a 2015 PEN Oakland-Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature.

a peoples history of american empire: *America, Empire of Liberty* David Reynolds, 2009-10-06 The best one-volume history of the United States ever written (Joseph J. Ellis) It was Thomas Jefferson who envisioned the United States as a great empire of liberty. This paradoxical phrase may be the key to the American saga: How could the anti-empire of 1776 become the world's greatest superpower? And how did the country that offered unmatched liberty nevertheless found its prosperity on slavery and the dispossession of Native Americans? In this new single-volume history spanning the entire course of US history—from 1776 through the election of Barack Obama—prize-winning historian David Reynolds explains how tensions between empire and liberty have often been resolved by faith—both the evangelical Protestantism that has energized American politics for centuries and the larger faith in American righteousness that has driven the country's expansion. Written with verve and insight, *Empire of Liberty* brilliantly depicts America in all of its many contradictions.

a peoples history of american empire: *Empire for Liberty* Richard H. Immerman, 2010 How could the United States, a nation founded on the principles of liberty and equality, have produced Abu Ghraib, torture memos, Plamegate, and warrantless wiretaps? Did America set out to become an empire? And if so, how has it reconciled its imperialism--and in some cases, its crimes--with the idea of liberty so forcefully expressed in the Declaration of Independence? *Empire for Liberty* tells the story of men who used the rhetoric of liberty to further their imperial ambitions, and reveals that the quest for empire has guided the nation's architects from the very beginning--and continues to do so today.

a peoples history of american empire: *Race, Nation, and Empire in American History* James T. Campbell, 2009-07-27 While public debates over America's current foreign policy often treat American empire as a new phenomenon, this lively collection of essays offers a pointed reminder that visions of national and imperial greatness were a cornerstone of the new country

when it was founded. In fact, notions of empire have long framed debates over western expansio...

a peoples history of american empire: *American Empire* A. G. Hopkins, 2019-08-27

Compelling, provocative, and learned. This book is a stunning and sophisticated reevaluation of the American empire. Hopkins tells an old story in a truly new way--American history will never be the same again.--Jeremi Suri, author of *The Impossible Presidency: The Rise and Fall of America's Highest Office*.Office.

a peoples history of american empire: The Secret History of the American Empire John Perkins, 2007 In this riveting memoir, bestselling author Perkins details his former role as an economic hit man. This stunning, behind-the-scenes expos reveals a conspiracy of corruption that has fueled instability and anti-Americanism around the globe.

a peoples history of american empire: *The True Flag* Stephen Kinzer, 2017-01-24 The public debate over American interventionism at the dawn of the 20th century is vividly brought to life in this "engaging, well-focused history" (Kirkus, starred review).

a peoples history of american empire: A Young People's History of the United States

Howard Zinn, 2011-01-04 A Young People's History of the United States brings to US history the viewpoints of workers, slaves, immigrants, women, Native Americans, and others whose stories, and their impact, are rarely included in books for young people. A Young People's History of the United States is also a companion volume to *The People Speak*, the film adapted from A People's History of the United States and *Voices of a People's History of the United States*. Beginning with a look at Christopher Columbus's arrival through the eyes of the Arawak Indians, then leading the reader through the struggles for workers' rights, women's rights, and civil rights during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and ending with the current protests against continued American imperialism, Zinn in the volumes of A Young People's History of the United States presents a radical new way of understanding America's history. In so doing, he reminds readers that America's true greatness is shaped by our dissident voices, not our military generals.

a peoples history of american empire: Hide In Plain Sight Marta Perry, 2007-08-01 She couldn't turn her back on her family in their time of need. So when her sister was injured, financial expert Andrea Hampton traded the big city for Amish country to help turn her grandmother's house into an inn. But life with the Plain People took a treacherous turn when a string of accidents and pranks threatened her family. Someone didn't want the secrets the old house harbored to come to light. Trusting anyone— even the handsome carpenter who seemed so genuine—was a battle for Andrea, but her life depended on her ability to find the truth.

a peoples history of american empire: The Indispensable Zinn Howard Zinn, 2012-12-11 A

"well-chosen anthology of the radical historian's prodigious output," from A People's History of the United States and lesser known sources (Kirkus Reviews). When Howard Zinn died in early 2010, millions of Americans mourned the loss of one of the nation's foremost intellectual and political guides; a historian, activist, and truth-teller who, in the words of the New York Times's Bob Herbert, "peel[ed] back the rosy veneer of much of American history to reveal sordid realities that had remained hidden for too long." A collection designed to highlight Zinn's essential writings, *The Indispensable Zinn* includes excerpts from Zinn's bestselling *A People's History of the United States*; his memoir, *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*; his inspiring writings on the civil rights movement, and the full text of his celebrated play, *Marx in Soho*. Noted historian and activist Timothy Patrick McCarthy provides essential historical and biographical context for each selection. With a foreword by Noam Chomsky and an afterword from Zinn's former Spellman College student and longtime friend, Alice Walker, *The Indispensable Zinn* is both a fitting tribute to the legacy of a man whose "work changed the way millions of people saw the past," and a powerful and accessible introduction for anyone coming to Zinn's essential body of work for the first time (Noam Chomsky).

a peoples history of american empire: American Empire Joshua Freeman, 2012-08-02 A

compelling look at the movements and developments that propelled America to world dominance In this landmark work, acclaimed historian Joshua Freeman has created an epic portrait of a nation both galvanized by change and driven by conflict. Beginning in 1945, the economic juggernaut

awakened by World War II transformed a country once defined by its regional character into a uniform and cohesive power and set the stage for the United States' rise to global dominance. Meanwhile, Freeman locates the profound tragedy that has shaped the path of American civic life, unfolding how the civil rights and labor movements worked for decades to enlarge the rights of millions of Americans, only to watch power ultimately slip from individual citizens to private corporations. Moving through McCarthyism and Vietnam, from the Great Society to Morning in America, Joshua Freeman's sweeping story of a nation's rise reveals forces at play that will continue to affect the future role of American influence and might in the greater world.

a peoples history of american empire: Bye Bye, Miss American Empire Bill Kauffman, 2010-07-10 This book traces the historical roots of the secessionist spirit, and introduces us to the often radical, sometimes quixotic, and highly charged movements that want to decentralize and re-localize power--P. [4] of cover.

a peoples history of american empire: A People's History of the U.S. Military Michael A. Bellesiles, 2012-09-11 In *A People's History of the U.S. Military*, historian Michael A. Bellesiles draws from three centuries of soldiers' personal encounters with combat—through fascinating excerpts from letters, diaries, and memoirs, as well as audio recordings, film, and blogs—to capture the essence of the American military experience firsthand, from the American Revolution to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Military service can shatter and give meaning to lives; it is rarely a neutral encounter, and has contributed to a rich outpouring of personal testimony from the men and women who have literally placed their lives on the line. The often dramatic and always richly textured first-person accounts collected in this book cover a wide range of perspectives, from ardent patriots to disillusioned cynics; barely literate farm boys to urbane college graduates; scions of founding families to recent immigrants, enthusiasts, and dissenters; women disguising themselves as men in order to serve their country to African Americans fighting for their freedom through military service. A work of great relevance and immediacy—as the nation grapples with the return of thousands of men and women from active military duty—*A People's History of the U.S. Military* will become a major new touchstone for our understanding of American military service.

a peoples history of american empire: American Empire and the Politics of Meaning Julian Go, 2008-03-14 When the United States took control of the Philippines and Puerto Rico in the wake of the Spanish-American War, it declared that it would transform its new colonies through lessons in self-government and the ways of American-style democracy. In both territories, U.S. colonial officials built extensive public school systems, and they set up American-style elections and governmental institutions. The officials aimed their lessons in democratic government at the political elite: the relatively small class of the wealthy, educated, and politically powerful within each colony. While they retained ultimate control for themselves, the Americans let the elite vote, hold local office, and formulate legislation in national assemblies. *American Empire and the Politics of Meaning* is an examination of how these efforts to provide the elite of Puerto Rico and the Philippines a practical education in self-government played out on the ground in the early years of American colonial rule, from 1898 until 1912. It is the first systematic comparative analysis of these early exercises in American imperial power. The sociologist Julian Go unravels how American authorities used “culture” as both a tool and a target of rule, and how the Puerto Rican and Philippine elite received, creatively engaged, and sometimes silently subverted the Americans' ostensibly benign intentions. Rather than finding that the attempt to transplant American-style democracy led to incommensurable “culture clashes,” Go assesses complex processes of cultural accommodation and transformation. By combining rich historical detail with broader theories of meaning, culture, and colonialism, he provides an innovative study of the hidden intersections of political power and cultural meaning-making in America's earliest overseas empire.

a peoples history of american empire: A People's History for the Classroom Bill Bigelow, Howard Zinn, 2008 Presents a collection of lessons and activities for teaching American history for students in middle school and high school.

a peoples history of american empire: Harvest of Empire Juan Gonzalez, 2011-05-31 A

sweeping history of the Latino experience in the United States- thoroughly revised and updated. The first new edition in ten years of this important study of Latinos in U.S. history, *Harvest of Empire* spans five centuries-from the first New World colonies to the first decade of the new millennium. Latinos are now the largest minority group in the United States, and their impact on American popular culture-from food to entertainment to literature-is greater than ever. Featuring family portraits of real- life immigrant Latino pioneers, as well as accounts of the events and conditions that compelled them to leave their homelands, *Harvest of Empire* is required reading for anyone wishing to understand the history and legacy of this increasingly influential group.

a peoples history of american empire: *Prairie Imperialists* Katharine Bjork, 2019-01-11 The Spanish-American War marked the emergence of the United States as an imperial power. It was when the United States first landed troops overseas and established governments of occupation in the Philippines, Cuba, and other formerly Spanish colonies. But such actions to extend U.S. sovereignty abroad, argues Katharine Bjork, had a precedent in earlier relations with Native nations at home. In *Prairie Imperialists*, Bjork traces the arc of American expansion by showing how the Army's conquests of what its soldiers called Indian Country generated a repertoire of actions and understandings that structured encounters with the racial others of America's new island territories following the War of 1898. *Prairie Imperialists* follows the colonial careers of three Army officers from the domestic frontier to overseas posts in Cuba and the Philippines. The men profiled—Hugh Lenox Scott, Robert Lee Bullard, and John J. Pershing—internalized ways of behaving in Indian Country that shaped their approach to later colonial appointments abroad. Scott's ethnographic knowledge and experience with Native Americans were valorized as an asset for colonial service; Bullard and Pershing, who had commanded African American troops, were regarded as particularly suited for roles in the pacification and administration of colonial peoples overseas. After returning to the mainland, these three men played prominent roles in the Punitive Expedition President Woodrow Wilson sent across the southern border in 1916, during which Mexico figured as the next iteration of Indian Country. With rich biographical detail and ambitious historical scope, *Prairie Imperialists* makes fundamental connections between American colonialism and the racial dimensions of domestic political and social life—during peacetime and while at war. Ultimately, Bjork contends, the concept of Indian Country has served as the guiding force of American imperial expansion and nation building for the past two and a half centuries and endures to this day.

a peoples history of american empire: *A People's History of the World* Chris Harman, 2017-05-02 Building on *A People's History of the United States*, this radical world history captures the broad sweep of human history from the perspective of struggling classes. An “indispensable volume” on class and capitalism throughout the ages—for readers reckoning with the history they were taught and history as it truly was (Howard Zinn) From the earliest human societies to the Holy Roman Empire, from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment, from the Industrial Revolution to the end of the twentieth century, Chris Harman provides a brilliant and comprehensive history of the human race. Eschewing the standard accounts of “Great Men,” of dates and kings, Harman offers a groundbreaking counter-history, a breathtaking sweep across the centuries in the tradition of “history from below.” In a fiery narrative, he shows how ordinary men and women were involved in creating and changing society and how conflict between classes was often at the core of these developments. While many scholars see the victory of capitalism as now safely secured, Harman explains the rise and fall of societies and civilizations throughout the ages and demonstrates that history moves ever onward in every age. A vital corrective to traditional history, *A People's History of the World* is essential reading for anyone interested in how society has changed and developed and the possibilities for further radical progress.

a peoples history of american empire: *American Empire* Andrew J. BACEVICH, 2009-06-30 In a challenging, provocative book, Andrew Bacevich reconsiders the assumptions and purposes governing the exercise of American global power. Examining the presidencies of George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton--as well as George W. Bush's first year in office--he demolishes the view that the United States has failed to devise a replacement for containment as a basis for foreign policy. He

finds instead that successive post-Cold War administrations have adhered to a well-defined strategy of openness. Motivated by the imperative of economic expansionism, that strategy aims to foster an open and integrated international order, thereby perpetuating the undisputed primacy of the world's sole remaining superpower. Moreover, openness is not a new strategy, but has been an abiding preoccupation of policymakers as far back as Woodrow Wilson. Although based on expectations that eliminating barriers to the movement of trade, capital, and ideas nurtures not only affluence but also democracy, the aggressive pursuit of openness has met considerable resistance. To overcome that resistance, U.S. policymakers have with increasing frequency resorted to force, and military power has emerged as never before as the preferred instrument of American statecraft, resulting in the progressive militarization of U.S. foreign policy. Neither indictment nor celebration, American Empire sees the drive for openness for what it is--a breathtakingly ambitious project aimed at erecting a global imperium. Large questions remain about that project's feasibility and about the human, financial, and moral costs that it will entail. By penetrating the illusions obscuring the reality of U.S. policy, this book marks an essential first step toward finding the answers. Table of Contents: Preface Introduction 1. The Myth of the Reluctant Superpower 2. Globalization and Its Conceits 3. Policy by Default 4. Strategy of Openness 5. Full Spectrum Dominance 6. Gunboats and Gurkhas 7. Rise of the Proconsuls 8. Different Drummers, Same Drum 9. War for the Imperium Notes Acknowledgments Index

Reviews of this book: [A] straightforward critical interpretation of American statecraft in the 1990s...he is straightforward, too, in establishing where he stands on the political spectrum about US foreign policy...Bacevich insists that there are no differences in the key assumptions governing the foreign policy of the administrations of Bush I, Clinton, and Bush II--and this will certainly be the subject of passionate debate...Bacevich's argument persuades...by means of engaging prose as well as the compelling and relentless accumulation of detail...Bring[s] badly needed [perspective] to troubled times. --James A. Miller, Boston Globe

Reviews of this book: For everyone there's Andrew Bacevich's American Empire, an intelligent, elegantly written, highly convincing polemic that demonstrates how the motor of US foreign policy since independence has been the need to guarantee economic growth. --Dominick Donald, The Guardian

Reviews of this book: Andrew Bacevich's remarkably clear, cool-headed, and enlightening book is an expression of the United States' unadmitted imperial primacy. It's as bracing as a plunge into a clear mountain lake after exposure to the soporific internationalist conventional wisdom...Bacevich performs an invaluable service by restoring missing historical context and perspective to today's shallow, hand-wringing discussion of Sept. 11...Bacevich's brave, intelligent book restores our vocabulary to debate anew the United States' purpose in the world. --Richard J. Whalen, Across the Board

Reviews of this book: To say that Andrew Bacevich's American Empire is a truly realistic work of realism is therefore to declare it not only a very good book, but also a pretty rare one. The author, a distinguished former soldier, combines a tough-minded approach to the uses of military force with a grasp of American history that is both extremely knowledgeable and exceptionally clear-sighted. This book is indispensable for anyone who wants to understand the background to U.S. world hegemony at the start of the 21st century; and it is also a most valuable warning about the dangers into which the pursuit and maintenance of this hegemony may lead America. --Anatol Levin, Washington Monthly

Reviews of this book: American Empire is an immensely thoughtful book. Its reflections go beyond the narrow realm of U.S. security policy and demonstrate a deep understanding of American history and culture. --David Hastings Dunn, Political Studies Review

I have long suspected our nation's triumphs and trials owed much to the American genius for solipsism and self-deception. Bacevich has convinced me of it by holding up a mirror to self-styled idealists and realists alike. Read all the books you want about the post-Cold War, post-9/11 world, just be sure American Empire is one of them. --Walter A. McDougall, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, University of Pennsylvania

This deeply informed, impressive polemical book is precisely what Americans, in and outside of the academy, needed before 9/11 and need now even more. Crisp, lively, biting prose will help them enjoy it. Among its many themes are hubris, hegemony, and the fatuousness of claims by the American military that they can now achieve 'transparency' in

war-making. --Michael S. Sherry, Northwestern University The United States could not possibly have an empire, Americans think. But we do. And with verve and telling insight Andrew Bacevich shows how it works and what it means. --Ronald Steel, author of *Temptations of a Superpower: America's Foreign Policy after the Cold War*

a peoples history of american empire: *A People's History of the Second World War* Donny Gluckstein, 2012-06-15 *A People's History of the Second World War* unearths the fascinating history of the war as fought from below. Until now, the vast majority of historical accounts have focused on the regular armies of the allied powers. Donny Gluckstein shows that an important part of the fighting involved people's militias struggling against not just fascism, but also colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism itself. Gluckstein argues that despite this radical element, which was fighting on the ground, the allied governments were more interested in creating a new order to suit their interests. He shows how various anti-fascist resistance movements in Poland, Greece, Italy, and elsewhere were betrayed by the Allies despite playing a decisive part in defeating the Nazis. This book will fundamentally challenge our understanding of the Second World War - both about the people who fought it and the reasons for which it was fought.

a peoples history of american empire: *Sugar and Civilization* April Merleaux, 2015-07-13 In the weeks and months after the end of the Spanish-American War, Americans celebrated their nation's triumph by eating sugar. Each of the nation's new imperial possessions, from Puerto Rico to the Philippines, had the potential for vastly expanding sugar production. As victory parties and commemorations prominently featured candy and other sweets, Americans saw sugar as the reward for their global ambitions. April Merleaux demonstrates that trade policies and consumer cultures are as crucial to understanding U.S. empire as military or diplomatic interventions. As the nation's sweet tooth grew, people debated tariffs, immigration, and empire, all of which hastened the nation's rise as an international power. These dynamics played out in the bureaucracies of Washington, D.C., in the pages of local newspapers, and at local candy counters. Merleaux argues that ideas about race and civilization shaped sugar markets since government policies and business practices hinged on the racial characteristics of the people who worked the land and consumed its products. Connecting the history of sugar to its producers, consumers, and policy makers, Merleaux shows that the modern American sugar habit took shape in the shadow of a growing empire.

a peoples history of american empire: *Howard Zinn on History* Howard Zinn, 2011-06-14 Howard Zinn began work on his first book for his friends at Seven Stories Press in 1996, a big volume collecting all his shorter writings organized by subject. The themes he chose reflected his lifelong concerns: war, history, law, class, means and ends, and race. Throughout his life Zinn had returned again and again to these subjects, continually probing and questioning yet rarely reversing his convictions or the vision that informed them. The result was *The Zinn Reader*. Five years later, starting with *Howard Zinn on History*, updated editions of sections of that mammoth tome were published in inexpensive stand-alone editions. This second edition of *Howard Zinn on History* brings together twenty-seven short writings on activism, electoral politics, the Holocaust, Marxism, the Iraq War, and the role of the historian, as well as portraits of Eugene Debs, John Reed, and Jack London, effectively showing how Zinn's approach to history evolved over nearly half a century, and at the same time sharing his fundamental thinking that social movements—people getting together for peace and social justice—can change the course of history. That core belief never changed. Chosen by Zinn himself as the shorter writings on history he believed to have enduring value—originally appearing in newspapers like the *Boston Globe* or the *New York Times*; in magazines like *Z*, the *New Left*, the *Progressive*, or the *Nation*; or in his book *Failure to Quit*—these essays appear here as examples of the kind of passionate engagement he believed all historians, and indeed all citizens of whatever profession, need to have, standing in sharp contrast to the notion of objective or neutral history espoused by some. It is time that we scholars begin to earn our keep in this world, he writes in *The Uses of Scholarship*. And in *Freedom Schools*, about his experiences teaching in Mississippi during the remarkable Freedom Summer of 1964, he adds: Education can, and should, be dangerous.

a peoples history of american empire: *Voices of a People's History of the United States*

Howard Zinn, Anthony Arnove, 2011-01-04 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.

a peoples history of american empire: *Building an American Empire* Paul Frymer,

2019-07-16 How American westward expansion was governmentally engineered to promote the formation of a white settler nation Westward expansion of the United States is most conventionally remembered for rugged individualism, geographic isolationism, and a fair amount of luck. Yet the establishment of the forty-eight contiguous states was hardly a foregone conclusion, and the federal government played a critical role in its success. This book examines the politics of American expansion, showing how the government's regulation of population movements on the frontier, both settlement and removal, advanced national aspirations for empire and promoted the formation of a white settler nation. *Building an American Empire* details how a government that struggled to exercise plenary power used federal land policy to assert authority over the direction of expansion by engineering the pace and patterns of settlement and to control the movement of populations. At times, the government mobilized populations for compact settlement in strategically important areas of the frontier; at other times, policies were designed to actively restrain settler populations in order to prevent violence, international conflict, and breakaway states. Paul Frymer examines how these settlement patterns helped construct a dominant racial vision for America by incentivizing and directing the movement of white European settlers onto indigenous and diversely populated lands. These efforts were hardly seamless, and Frymer pays close attention to the failures as well, from the lack of further expansion into Latin America to the defeat of the black colonization movement. *Building an American Empire* reveals the lasting and profound significance government settlement policies had for the nation, both for establishing America as dominantly white and for restricting broader aspirations for empire in lands that could not be so racially engineered.

a peoples history of american empire: *A People's Art History of the United States* Nicolas

Lampert, 2013-11-05 Most people outside of the art world view art as something that is foreign to their experiences and everyday lives. *A People's Art History of the United States* places art history squarely in the rough-;and-;tumble of politics, social struggles, and the fight for justice from the colonial era through the present day. Author and radical artist Nicolas Lampert combines historical sweep with detailed examinations of individual artists and works in a politically charged narrative that spans the conquest of the Americas, the American Revolution, slavery and abolition, western expansion, the suffragette movement and feminism, civil rights movements, environmental movements, LGBT movements, antiglobalization movements, contemporary antiwar movements, and beyond. *A People's Art History of the United States* introduces us to key works of American radical art alongside dramatic retellings of the histories that inspired them. Stylishly illustrated with over two hundred images, this book is nothing less than an alternative education for anyone interested in the powerful role that art plays in our society.

a peoples history of american empire: *U.S. History* P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M.

Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Sylvie Waskiewicz, Paul Vickery, 2024-09-10 *U.S. History* is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a

balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). U.S. History covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

a peoples history of american empire: The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture Amy Kaplan, 2005-03-15 The United States has always imagined that its identity as a nation is insulated from violent interventions abroad, as if a line between domestic and foreign affairs could be neatly drawn. Yet this book argues that such a distinction, so obviously impracticable in our own global era, has been illusory at least since the war with Mexico in the mid-nineteenth century and the later wars against Spain, Cuba, and the Philippines. In this book, Amy Kaplan shows how U.S. imperialism--from Manifest Destiny to the American Century--has profoundly shaped key elements of American culture at home, and how the struggle for power over foreign peoples and places has disrupted the quest for domestic order. The neatly ordered kitchen in Catherine Beecher's household manual may seem remote from the battlefields of Mexico in 1846, just as Mark Twain's Mississippi may seem distant from Honolulu in 1866, or W. E. B. Du Bois's reports of the East St. Louis Race Riot from the colonization of Africa in 1917. But, as this book reveals, such apparently disparate locations are cast into jarring proximity by imperial expansion. In literature, journalism, film, political speeches, and legal documents, Kaplan traces the undeniable connections between American efforts to quell anarchy abroad and the eruption of such anarchy at the heart of the empire.

a peoples history of american empire: The Indian Empire William Wilson Hunter, 1882

a peoples history of american empire: Among Empires Charles S. Maier, 2007-10-30 Contemporary America, with its unparalleled armaments and ambition, seems to many commentators a new empire. Others angrily reject the designation. What stakes would being an empire have for our identity at home and our role abroad? A preeminent American historian addresses these issues in light of the history of empires since antiquity. This elegantly written book examines the structure and impact of these mega-states and asks whether the United States shares their traits and behavior. Eschewing the standard focus on current U.S. foreign policy and the recent spate of pro- and anti-empire polemics, Charles S. Maier uses comparative history to test the relevance of a concept often invoked but not always understood. Marshaling a remarkable array of evidence—from Roman, Ottoman, Moghul, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and British experience—Maier outlines the essentials of empire throughout history. He then explores the exercise of U.S. power in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, carefully analyzing its economic and strategic sources and the nation's relationship to predecessors and rivals. To inquire about empire is to ask what the United States has become as a result of its wealth, inventiveness, and ambitions. It is to confront lofty national aspirations with the realities of the violence that often attends imperial politics and thus to question both the costs and the opportunities of the current U.S. global ascendancy. With learning, dispassion, and clarity, *Among Empires* offers bold comparisons and an original account of American power. It confirms that the issue of empire must be a concern of every citizen.

a peoples history of american empire: Hearts and Minds Hannah Gurman, 2013-10-01 The first book of its kind, *Hearts and Minds* is a scathing response to the grand narrative of U.S. counterinsurgency, in which warfare is defined not by military might alone but by winning the hearts and minds of civilians. Dormant as a tactic since the days of the Vietnam War, in 2006 the U.S. Army drafted a new field manual heralding the resurrection of counterinsurgency as a primary military engagement strategy; counterinsurgency campaigns followed in Iraq and Afghanistan, despite the fact that counterinsurgency had utterly failed to account for the actual lived experiences of the people whose hearts and minds America had sought to win. Drawing on leading thinkers in the field and using key examples from Malaya, the Philippines, Vietnam, El Salvador, Iraq, and Afghanistan, *Hearts and Minds* brings a long-overdue focus on the many civilians caught up in these conflicts. Both urgent and timely, this important book challenges the idea of a neat divide between insurgents and the populations from which they emerge—and should be required reading for anyone engaged in

the most important contemporary debates over U.S. military policy.

a peoples history of american empire: *American Empire at the Turn at the Twentieth Century* Kristin L. Hoganson, 2017-02-09 This volume introduces students to primary documents on American empire from a pivotal era of U.S. expansion beyond the North American continent in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Along with covering a wide range of places-including Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines--the documents touch on a wide range of themes, among them race, citizenship, civilization, democracy, cross-cultural encounter, and self-determination. Kristin Hoganson's introduction provides the context essential to understanding this period and the ways in which the echoes of 1898 still reverberate today, including in the reach of U.S. power and the composition of the American people. Through a collection of sources representing the voices of those living under imperial rule as well as those imposing and opposing it, students can consider the American imperial endeavors. Document headnotes, maps, a Chronology of American Empire in the Caribbean and the Pacific, Questions for Consideration, and a Selected Bibliography provide pedagogical support.

a peoples history of american empire: *A People's History of the Supreme Court* Peter Irons, 2006-07-25 A comprehensive history of the people and cases that have changed history, this is the definitive account of the nation's highest court featuring a forward by Howard Zinn Recent changes in the Supreme Court have placed the venerable institution at the forefront of current affairs, making this comprehensive and engaging work as timely as ever. In the tradition of Howard Zinn's classic *A People's History of the United States*, Peter Irons chronicles the decisions that have influenced virtually every aspect of our society, from the debates over judicial power to controversial rulings in the past regarding slavery, racial segregation, and abortion, as well as more current cases about school prayer, the Bush/Gore election results, and enemy combatants. To understand key issues facing the supreme court and the current battle for the court's ideological makeup, there is no better guide than Peter Irons. This revised and updated edition includes a foreword by Howard Zinn. A sophisticated narrative history of the Supreme Court . . . [Irons] breathes abundant life into old documents and reminds readers that today's fiercest arguments about rights are the continuation of the endless American conversation. -Publisher's Weekly (starred review)

a peoples history of american empire: *Designs on Empire* Andrew Priest, 2021-08-31 In the eyes of both contemporaries and historians, the United States became an empire in 1898. By taking possession of Cuba and the Philippines, the nation seemed to have reached a watershed moment in its rise to power—spurring arguments over whether it should be a colonial power at all. However, the questions that emerged in the wake of 1898 built on long-standing and far-reaching debates over America's place in the world. Andrew Priest offers a new understanding of the roots of American empire that foregrounds the longer history of perceptions of European powers. He traces the development of American thinking about European imperialism in the years after the Civil War, before the United States embarked on its own overseas colonial projects. *Designs on Empire* examines responses to Napoleon III's intervention in Mexico, Spain and the Ten Years' War in Cuba, Britain's occupation of Egypt, and the carving up of Africa at the Berlin Conference. Priest shows how observing and interacting with other empires shaped American understandings of the international environment and their own burgeoning power. He highlights ambivalence among American elites regarding empire as well as the prevalence of notions of racial hierarchy. While many deplored the way powerful nations dominated others, others saw imperial projects as the advance of civilization, and even critics often felt a closer affinity with European imperialists than colonized peoples. A wide-ranging book that blends intellectual, political, and diplomatic history, *Designs on Empire* sheds new light on the foundations of American power.

a peoples history of american empire: *News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media* Juan González, Joseph Torres, 2011-10-31 A landmark narrative history of American media that puts race at the center of the story. Here is a new, sweeping narrative history of American news media that puts race at the center of the story. From the earliest colonial newspapers to the Internet age, America's racial divisions have played a central role in the creation

of the country's media system, just as the media has contributed to—and every so often, combated—racial oppression. *News for All the People* reveals how racial segregation distorted the information Americans received from the mainstream media. It unearths numerous examples of how publishers and broadcasters actually fomented racial violence and discrimination through their coverage. And it chronicles the influence federal media policies exerted in such conflicts. It depicts the struggle of Black, Latino, Asian, and Native American journalists who fought to create a vibrant yet little-known alternative, democratic press, and then, beginning in the 1970s, forced open the doors of the major media companies. The writing is fast-paced, story-driven, and replete with memorable portraits of individual journalists and media executives, both famous and obscure, heroes and villains. It weaves back and forth between the corporate and government leaders who built our segregated media system—such as Herbert Hoover, whose Federal Radio Commission eagerly awarded a license to a notorious Ku Klux Klan organization in the nation's capital—and those who rebelled against that system, like Pittsburgh Courier publisher Robert L. Vann, who led a remarkable national campaign to get the black-face comedy Amos 'n' Andy off the air. Based on years of original archival research and up-to-the-minute reporting and written by two veteran journalists and leading advocates for a more inclusive and democratic media system, *News for All the People* should become the standard history of American media.

a peoples history of american empire: These Truths: A History of the United States Jill Lepore, 2018-09-18 “Nothing short of a masterpiece.” —NPR Books A New York Times Bestseller and a Washington Post Notable Book of the Year In the most ambitious one-volume American history in decades, award-winning historian Jill Lepore offers a magisterial account of the origins and rise of a divided nation. Widely hailed for its “sweeping, sobering account of the American past” (New York Times Book Review), Jill Lepore's one-volume history of America places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. The American experiment rests on three ideas—“these truths,” Jefferson called them—political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people. But has the nation, and democracy itself, delivered on that promise? *These Truths* tells this uniquely American story, beginning in 1492, asking whether the course of events over more than five centuries has proven the nation's truths, or belied them. To answer that question, Lepore wrestles with the state of American politics, the legacy of slavery, the persistence of inequality, and the nature of technological change. “A nation born in contradiction... will fight, forever, over the meaning of its history,” Lepore writes, but engaging in that struggle by studying the past is part of the work of citizenship. With *These Truths*, Lepore has produced a book that will shape our view of American history for decades to come.

a peoples history of american empire: The Empire Strikes Out Robert Elias, 2010-01-19 Is the face of American baseball throughout the world that of goodwill ambassador or ugly American? Has baseball crafted its own image or instead been at the mercy of broader forces shaping our society and the globe? *The Empire Strikes Out* gives us the sweeping story of how baseball and America are intertwined in the export of “the American way.” From the Civil War to George W. Bush and the Iraq War, we see baseball's role in developing the American empire, first at home and then beyond our shores. And from Albert Spalding and baseball's first World Tour to Bud Selig and the World Baseball Classic, we witness the globalization of America's national pastime and baseball's role in spreading the American dream. Besides describing baseball's frequent and often surprising connections to America's presence around the world, Elias assesses the effects of this relationship both on our foreign policies and on the sport itself and asks whether baseball can play a positive role or rather only reinforce America's dominance around the globe. Like Franklin Foer in *How Soccer Explains the World*, Elias is driven by compelling stories, unusual events, and unique individuals. His seamless integration of original research and compelling analysis makes this a baseball book that's about more than just sports.

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