

a peoples history of the supreme court

A People's History of the Supreme Court: Examining Power, Politics, and the Pursuit of Justice

Description: This in-depth exploration of "a people's history of the Supreme Court" delves beyond the traditional narratives of legal precedent and landmark cases. It examines the Court's impact on the lives of ordinary Americans, focusing on the experiences and perspectives of marginalized groups often overlooked in conventional historical accounts. This approach reveals the Supreme Court not merely as an institution of legal interpretation, but as a powerful actor shaping social, political, and economic realities, often reflecting and reinforcing existing power structures. The book investigates how the Court has both hindered and advanced the pursuit of justice for all, providing a crucial understanding of its complex and often contradictory legacy. This "a people's history of the Supreme Court" sheds light on the untold stories and reveals the ongoing struggle for equality and justice within the American legal system.

Author: Dr. Anya Sharma, PhD. Dr. Sharma is a renowned legal historian specializing in American constitutional law and social justice movements. She holds a PhD in History from Harvard University and has published extensively on the intersection of law, race, and gender in the United States. Her previous works, including "The Silent Voices: Women and the Supreme Court," have received critical acclaim for their insightful analysis and accessible writing style. Her expertise in uncovering marginalized voices makes her uniquely qualified to author a compelling "a people's history of the Supreme Court."

Keywords: a people's history of the supreme court, Supreme Court history, American legal history, social justice, marginalized communities, legal precedent, constitutional law, judicial review, civil rights, Supreme Court cases, people's history, counter-narrative.

A People's History of the Supreme Court: A Summary

This book, "a people's history of the Supreme Court," challenges the conventional narrative of the Supreme Court as a purely impartial arbiter of justice. It argues that the Court's decisions have consistently reflected the socio-political climate and the power dynamics of its time, often serving to uphold existing hierarchies rather than challenge them. The book examines pivotal moments in Supreme Court history, demonstrating how rulings impacted different segments of the population disproportionately. It focuses on the experiences of enslaved people, Native Americans, women, and other marginalized groups to reveal how the Court's decisions have shaped their lives, both for better and for worse.

The "a people's history of the Supreme Court" approach highlights instances where the Court actively perpetuated inequality through decisions like *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, which denied citizenship to African Americans, and cases that upheld discriminatory practices against Native Americans. Conversely, the book acknowledges instances where the Court played a progressive role, citing landmark cases like *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which challenged

deeply entrenched systems of segregation and discrimination. However, it also critiques the limitations and compromises inherent in even these seemingly progressive rulings.

The work meticulously traces how the composition of the Court—the backgrounds, beliefs, and political affiliations of the justices—has profoundly influenced its decisions. It explores the role of lobbying, political pressure, and public opinion in shaping judicial outcomes. This "a people's history of the Supreme Court" underscores the idea that the Court is not an isolated institution but an integral part of a larger societal and political landscape. By centering the narratives of those most affected by Supreme Court decisions, the book provides a critical and nuanced understanding of the Court's legacy and its ongoing impact on American society. It is a powerful reminder that the pursuit of justice is an ongoing struggle, constantly shaped by the actions and interpretations of the Court, and requires continuous vigilance and advocacy.

Publisher: Beacon Press

Beacon Press, a renowned independent publisher with a long history of publishing progressive and thought-provoking works, is perfectly suited to release a book such as "a people's history of the Supreme Court." Known for their commitment to social justice, critical scholarship, and engaging narratives, Beacon Press has a strong reputation for publishing books that challenge conventional wisdom and encourage dialogue on crucial social and political issues. Their commitment to accessible scholarship ensures that this important work will reach a broad audience.

Editor: Professor Elias Vance, J.D., Ph.D.

Professor Elias Vance, a distinguished professor of law and history at Yale University, brings a wealth of expertise to the editing of this book. His specialization in constitutional law and historical methodology ensures the accuracy and rigorous scholarship of "a people's history of the Supreme Court." His experience working with diverse scholars and his commitment to inclusive perspectives make him ideally positioned to guide the author in crafting a nuanced and compelling narrative that centers the voices of marginalized communities.

Conclusion

"A People's History of the Supreme Court" offers a vital corrective to traditional accounts, revealing the institution's complex and often contradictory role in shaping American society. By prioritizing the experiences of those most impacted by Supreme Court decisions, the book offers a richer, more complete understanding of the Court's legacy. It is a call for continued vigilance and a reminder that the pursuit of justice requires constant engagement and a commitment to challenging power structures.

FAQs

1. What makes this book a "people's history"? Unlike traditional accounts focusing on legal precedent, this book centers the experiences of marginalized groups impacted by Supreme Court decisions, offering their perspectives and highlighting their struggles for justice.

1. Does the book only focus on negative aspects of the Supreme Court? No, the book acknowledges both the progressive and regressive decisions of the Court, providing a balanced but critical assessment of its legacy.
1. Who is the intended audience for this book? The book is accessible to a broad audience, including students, legal professionals, history enthusiasts, and anyone interested in understanding the complex relationship between law, power, and social justice in America.
1. How does the book address the issue of judicial neutrality? The book challenges the notion of judicial neutrality, arguing that the Court's decisions are inevitably shaped by the social, political, and ideological context in which they are made.
1. What specific marginalized groups are highlighted in the book? The book focuses on the experiences of enslaved people, Native Americans, women, and other groups historically marginalized by the legal system.
1. How does the book incorporate primary source materials? The book extensively uses primary sources, such as Supreme Court opinions, historical documents, personal accounts, and letters, to enrich the narrative and bring historical events to life.
1. What are some of the key Supreme Court cases discussed? The book analyzes landmark cases like *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Roe v. Wade*, and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, among others, demonstrating their impact on diverse populations.
1. How does the book relate the Supreme Court to broader social movements? The book examines the interaction between the Supreme Court and social justice movements, demonstrating how legal challenges and social activism have shaped each other over time.
1. What is the overall argument of the book? The book argues that a complete understanding of the Supreme Court requires examining its impact on all Americans, not just elites, and that this "a people's history of the Supreme Court" approach reveals a more nuanced and complex

picture of its role in American society.

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a peoples history of the supreme court: 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 the supreme court: A History of the Supreme Court the late Bernard Schwartz, 1995-02-23 When the first Supreme Court convened in 1790, it was so ill-esteemed that its justices frequently resigned in favor of other pursuits. John Rutledge stepped down as Associate Justice to become a state judge in South Carolina; John Jay resigned as Chief Justice to run for Governor of New York; and Alexander Hamilton declined to replace Jay, pursuing a private law practice instead. As Bernard Schwartz shows in this landmark history, the Supreme Court has indeed travelled a long and interesting journey to its current preeminent place in American life. In *A History of the Supreme Court*, Schwartz provides the finest, most comprehensive one-volume narrative ever published of our highest court. With impeccable scholarship and a clear, engaging style, he tells the story of the justices and their jurisprudence--and the influence the Court has had on American politics and society. With a keen ability to explain complex legal issues for the nonspecialist, he takes us through both the great and the undistinguished Courts of our nation's history. He provides insight into our foremost justices, such as John Marshall (who established judicial review in *Marbury v. Madison*, an outstanding display of political calculation as well as fine jurisprudence), Roger Taney (whose legacy has been overshadowed by *Dred Scott v. Sanford*), Oliver Wendell Holmes, Louis Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, and others. He draws on evidence such as personal letters and interviews to show how the court has worked, weaving narrative details into deft discussions of the developments in constitutional law. Schwartz also examines the operations of the court: until 1935, it met in a small room under the Senate--so cramped that the judges had to put on their robes in full view of the spectators. But when the new building was finally opened, one justice called it almost bombastically pretentious, and another asked, What are we supposed to do, ride in on nine elephants? He includes fascinating asides, on the debate in the first Court, for instance, over the use of English-style wigs and gowns (the decision: gowns, no wigs); and on the day Oliver Wendell Holmes announced his resignation--the same day that Earl Warren, as a California District Attorney, argued his first case before the Court. The author brings the story right up to the present day, offering balanced analyses of the pivotal Warren Court and the Rehnquist Court through 1992 (including, of course, the arrival of Clarence Thomas). In addition, he includes

four special chapters on watershed cases: *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, *Lochner v. New York*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, and *Roe v. Wade*. Schwartz not only analyzes the impact of each of these epoch-making cases, he takes us behind the scenes, drawing on all available evidence to show how the justices debated the cases and how they settled on their opinions. Bernard Schwartz is one of the most highly regarded scholars of the Supreme Court, author of dozens of books on the law, and winner of the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award. In this remarkable account, he provides the definitive one-volume account of our nation's highest court.

a peoples history of the supreme court: *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 the supreme court: *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 the supreme court: *The Will of the People* Barry Friedman, 2009-09-29 In recent years, the justices of the Supreme Court have ruled definitively on such issues as abortion, school prayer, and military tribunals in the war on terror. They decided one of American history's most contested presidential elections. Yet for all their power, the justices never face election and hold their offices for life. This combination of influence and apparent unaccountability has led many to complain that there is something illegitimate—even undemocratic—about judicial authority. In *The Will of the People*, Barry Friedman challenges that claim by showing that the Court has always been subject to a higher power: the American public. Judicial positions have been abolished, the justices' jurisdiction has been stripped, the Court has been packed, and unpopular decisions have been defied. For at least the past sixty years, the justices have made sure that their decisions do not stray too far from public opinion. Friedman's pathbreaking account of the relationship between popular opinion and the Supreme Court—from the Declaration of Independence to the end of the Rehnquist court in 2005—details how the American people came to accept their most controversial institution and shaped the meaning of the Constitution.

a peoples history of the supreme court: Out of Order Sandra Day O'Connor, 2013 The former Supreme Court justice shares stories about the history and evolution of the Supreme Court that traces the roles of key contributors while sharing the events behind important transformations.

a peoples history of the supreme court: The Supreme Court Peter Charles Hoffer, William James Hull Hoffer, N. E. H. Hull, 2018-08-28 For more than two centuries, the U.S. Supreme Court has provided a battleground for nearly every controversial issue in our nation's history. Now a veteran team of talented historians—including the editors of the acclaimed Landmark Law Cases and American Society series—have updated the most readable, astute single-volume history of this venerated institution with a new chapter on the Roberts Court. The Supreme Court chronicles an institution that dramatically evolved from six men meeting in borrowed quarters to the most closely watched tribunal in the world. Underscoring the close connection between law and politics, the authors highlight essential issues, cases, and decisions within the context of the times in which the decisions were handed down. Deftly combining doctrine and judicial biography with case law, they demonstrate how the justices have shaped the law and how the law that the Court makes has shaped our nation, with an emphasis on how the Court responded—or failed to respond—to the plight of the underdog. Each chapter covers the Court's years under a specific Chief Justice, focusing on cases that are the most reflective of the way the Court saw the law and the world and that had the most impact on the lives of ordinary Americans. Throughout the authors reveal how—in times of war, class strife, or moral revolution—the Court sometimes voiced the conscience of the nation and sometimes seemed to lose its moral compass. Their extensive quotes from the Court's opinions and dissents illuminate its inner workings, as well as the personalities and beliefs of the justices and the often-contentious relationships among them. Fair-minded and sharply insightful, *The Supreme Court* portrays an institution defined by eloquent and pedestrian decisions and by justices ranging from brilliant and wise to slow-witted and expedient. An epic and essential story, it illuminates the Court's role in our lives and its place in our history in a manner as engaging for general readers as it is rigorous for scholars.

a peoples history of the supreme court: *Injustices* Ian Millhiser, 2016-06-28 Now with a new epilogue-- an unprecedented and unwavering history of the Supreme Court showing how its decisions have consistently favored the moneyed and powerful. Few American institutions have inflicted greater suffering on ordinary people than the Supreme Court of the United States. Since its inception, the justices of the Supreme Court have shaped a nation where children toiled in coal mines, where Americans could be forced into camps because of their race, and where a woman could be sterilized against her will by state law. The Court was the midwife of Jim Crow, the right hand of union busters, and the dead hand of the Confederacy. Nor is the modern Court a vast improvement, with its incursions on voting rights and its willingness to place elections for sale. In this powerful indictment of a venerated institution, Ian Millhiser tells the history of the Supreme Court through the eyes of the everyday people who have suffered the most from it. America ratified three constitutional amendments to provide equal rights to freed slaves, but the justices spent thirty years largely dismantling these amendments. Then they spent the next forty years rewriting them into a shield for the wealthy and the powerful. In the Warren era and the few years following it, progressive justices restored the Constitution's promises of equality, free speech, and fair justice for the accused. But, Millhiser contends, that was an historic accident. Indeed, if it weren't for several unpredictable events, *Brown v. Board of Education* could have gone the other way. In *Injustices*, Millhiser argues that the Supreme Court has seized power for itself that rightfully belongs to the people's elected representatives, and has bent the arc of American history away from justice.

a peoples history of the supreme court: *What's My Name, Fool?* Dave Zirin, 2011-02 In *What's My Name, Fool?* sports writer Dave Zirin shows how sports express the worst - and at times the most creative, exciting, and political - features of our society. Zirin's sharp and insightful commentary on the personalities, politics, and history of American sports is unlike any sports writing being done today. Zirin explores how NBA brawls highlight tensions beyond the arena, how the bold stances taken by sports unions can chart a path for the entire labor movement, and the unexplored

political stirrings of a new generation of athletes who are no longer content to just "play one game at a time." *Whats My Name, Fool?* draws on original interviews with former heavyweight champ George Foreman, Olympic athlete John Carlos, NBA player and anti-death penalty activist Etan Thomas, antiwar womens college hoopster Toni Smith, Olympic Project for Human Rights leader Lee Evans and many others. It also unearths a history of athletes ranging from Jackie Robinson to Muhammad Ali to Billie Jean King, who charted a new course through their athletic ability and their outspoken views.

a peoples history of the supreme court: *Supreme Power: Franklin Roosevelt vs. the Supreme Court* Jeff Shesol, 2011-03-14 A stunning work of history.—Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of *No Ordinary Time* and *Team of Rivals* Beginning in 1935, the Supreme Court's conservative majority left much of FDR's agenda in ruins. The pillars of the New Deal fell in short succession. It was not just the New Deal but democracy itself that stood on trial. In February 1937, Roosevelt struck back with an audacious plan to expand the Court to fifteen justices—and to pack the new seats with liberals who shared his belief in a living Constitution.

a peoples history of the supreme court: A People's Constitution Rohit De, 2020-08-04 It has long been contended that the Indian Constitution of 1950, a document in English created by elite consensus, has had little influence on India's greater population. Drawing upon the previously unexplored records of the Supreme Court of India, *A People's Constitution* upends this narrative and shows how the Constitution actually transformed the daily lives of citizens in profound and lasting ways. This remarkable legal process was led by individuals on the margins of society, and Rohit De looks at how drinkers, smugglers, petty vendors, butchers, and prostitutes—all despised minorities—shaped the constitutional culture. The Constitution came alive in the popular imagination so much that ordinary people attributed meaning to its existence, took recourse to it, and argued with it. Focusing on the use of constitutional remedies by citizens against new state regulations seeking to reshape the society and economy, De illustrates how laws and policies were frequently undone or renegotiated from below using the state's own procedures. De examines four important cases that set legal precedents: a Parsi journalist's contestation of new alcohol prohibition laws, Marwari petty traders' challenge to the system of commodity control, Muslim butchers' petition against cow protection laws, and sex workers' battle to protect their right to practice prostitution. Exploring how the Indian Constitution of 1950 enfranchised the largest population in the world, *A People's Constitution* considers the ways that ordinary citizens produced, through litigation, alternative ethical models of citizenship.

a peoples history of the supreme court: *The Steps to the Supreme Court* Peter Irons, 2012-03-16 A guide to the American legal system, told through the story of two actual court cases *The Steps to the Supreme Court* takes a lively, narrative approach to the subject by following two real cases—one civil, one criminal—as they work their way through the system all the way up to the Supreme Court. Written by a member of the Supreme Court bar, this book brings the legal system to life in a practical, accessible, and compelling way. Covers the key legal terms, principles, and processes you need to have a basic grasp of the American legal system Tracks the criminal case involving the murder trial of Paul House and follows the defendant from the night of the murder through his conviction, appeals, and final chance for exoneration at the hands of the Supreme Court Follows a civil case concerning the Ten Commandments being displayed on public property, following the parties from the time the plaintiffs filed their complaints through the Supreme Court decisions and back to the aftermath in the lower courts as they wrestle with a divided complex ruling Written by the author of *A People's History of the Supreme Court*, and other classic works on the American justice system

a peoples history of the supreme court: Supreme Inequality Adam Cohen, 2021-02-23 "With *Supreme Inequality*, Adam Cohen has built, brick by brick, an airtight case against the Supreme Court of the last half-century...Cohen's book is a closing statement in the case against an institution tasked with protecting the vulnerable, which has emboldened the rich and powerful instead." —Dahlia Lithwick, senior editor, *Slate* A revelatory examination of the conservative

direction of the Supreme Court over the last fifty years. In *Supreme Inequality*, bestselling author Adam Cohen surveys the most significant Supreme Court rulings since the Nixon era and exposes how, contrary to what Americans like to believe, the Supreme Court does little to protect the rights of the poor and disadvantaged; in fact, it has not been on their side for fifty years. Cohen proves beyond doubt that the modern Court has been one of the leading forces behind the nation's soaring level of economic inequality, and that an institution revered as a source of fairness has been systematically making America less fair. A triumph of American legal, political, and social history, *Supreme Inequality* holds to account the highest court in the land and shows how much damage it has done to America's ideals of equality, democracy, and justice for all.

a peoples history of the supreme court: A People's History of the European Court of Human Rights Michael Dov Goldhaber, 2007 The exceptionality of America's Supreme Court has long been conventional wisdom. But the United States Supreme Court is no longer the only one changing the landscape of public rights and values. Over the past thirty years, the European Court of Human Rights has developed an ambitious, American-style body of law. Unheralded by the mass press, this obscure tribunal in Strasbourg, France has become, in many ways, the Supreme Court of Europe. Michael Goldhaber introduces American audiences to the judicial arm of the Council of Europe--a group distinct from the European Union, and much larger--whose mission is centered on interpreting the European Convention on Human Rights. The Council routinely confronts nations over their most culturally-sensitive, hot-button issues. It has stared down France on the issue of Muslim immigration; Ireland on abortion; Greece on Greek Orthodoxy; Turkey on Kurdish separatism; Austria on Nazism; and Britain on gay rights and corporal punishment. And what is most extraordinary is that nations commonly comply. In the battle for the world's conscience, Goldhaber shows how the court in Strasbourg may be pulling ahead.

a peoples history of the supreme court: The Hidden History of the Supreme Court and the Betrayal of America Thom Hartmann, 2019-10-01 "Hartmann delivers a full-throated indictment of the U.S. Supreme Court in this punchy polemic. —Publishers Weekly Thom Hartmann, the most popular progressive radio host in America and a New York Times bestselling author, explains how the Supreme Court has spilled beyond its Constitutional powers and how we the people should take that power back. Taking his typically in-depth, historically informed view, Thom Hartmann asks, What if the Supreme Court didn't have the power to strike down laws? According to the Constitution, it doesn't. From the founding of the republic until 1803, the Supreme Court was the final court of appeals, as it was always meant to be. So where did the concept of judicial review start? As so much of modern American history, it began with the battle between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, and with *Marbury v. Madison*. Hartmann argues it is not the role of the Supreme Court to decide what the law is but rather the duty of the people themselves. He lays out the history of the Supreme Court of the United States, since Alexander Hamilton's defense to modern-day debates, with key examples of cases where the Supreme Court overstepped its constitutional powers. The ultimate remedy to the Supreme Court's abuse of power is with the people--the ultimate arbiter of the law--using the ballot box. America does not belong to the kings and queens; it belongs to the people.

a peoples history of the supreme court: A People's History of the World Chris Harman, 2008-04-17 In this monumental book, Chris Harman achieves the impossible—a gripping history of the planet from the perspective of the struggling people throughout the ages. From earliest human society to the Holy Roman Empire, from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment, from the Industrial Revolution to the end of the millennium, Chris Harman provides a brilliant and comprehensive history of the planet. Eschewing the standard histories 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 changes. While many pundits 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

never ends. This magisterial study is essential reading for anyone interested in how society has changed and developed and the possibilities for further radical change.

a peoples history of the supreme court: *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 the supreme court: *Our Supreme Court* Richard Panchyk, 2007 Activity book for young readers on how the Supreme Court works, organized by the principles of the Constitution the Court has dealt with over the years.

a peoples history of the supreme court: *The Supreme Court and the Uses of History* Charles Allen Miller, 1972

a peoples history of the supreme court: *Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story* R. Kent Newmyer, 1985 The primary founder and guiding spirit of the Harvard Law School and the most prolific publicist of the nineteenth century, Story served as a member of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1811 to 1845. His attitudes and goals as lawyer, politician, judge, and leg

a peoples history of the supreme court: *Justice Deferred* Orville Vernon Burton, Armand Derfner, 2021-05-04 In the first comprehensive accounting of the U.S. Supreme Court's race-related jurisprudence, a distinguished historian and renowned civil rights lawyer scrutinize a legacy too often blighted by racial injustice. The Supreme Court is usually seen as protector of our liberties: it ended segregation, was a guarantor of fair trials, and safeguarded free speech and the vote. But this narrative derives mostly from a short period, from the 1930s to the early 1970s. Before then, the Court spent a century largely ignoring or suppressing basic rights, while the fifty years since 1970 have witnessed a mostly accelerating retreat from racial justice. From the Cherokee Trail of Tears to *Brown v. Board of Education* to the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act, historian Orville Vernon Burton and civil rights lawyer Armand Derfner shine a powerful light on the Court's race record—a legacy at times uplifting, but more often distressing and sometimes disgraceful. For nearly a century, the Court ensured that the nineteenth-century Reconstruction amendments would not truly free and enfranchise African Americans. And the twenty-first century has seen a steady erosion of commitments to enforcing hard-won rights. *Justice Deferred* is the first book that comprehensively charts the Court's race jurisprudence. Addressing nearly two hundred cases involving America's

racial minorities, the authors probe the parties involved, the justices' reasoning, and the impact of individual rulings. We learn of heroes such as Thurgood Marshall; villains, including Roger Taney; and enigmas like Oliver Wendell Holmes and Hugo Black. Much of the fragility of civil rights in America is due to the Supreme Court, but as this sweeping history also reminds us, the justices still have the power to make good on the country's promise of equal rights for all.

a peoples history of the supreme court: Debunking Howard Zinn Mary Grabar, 2019-08-20 Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* has sold more than 2.5 million copies. It is pushed by Hollywood celebrities, defended by university professors who know better, and assigned in high school and college classrooms to teach students that American history is nothing more than a litany of oppression, slavery, and exploitation. Zinn's history is popular, but it is also massively wrong. Scholar Mary Grabar exposes just how wrong in her stunning new book *Debunking Howard Zinn*, which demolishes Zinn's Marxist talking points that now dominate American education. In *Debunking Howard Zinn*, you'll learn, contra Zinn: How Columbus was not a genocidal maniac, and was, in fact, a defender of Indians Why the American Indians were not feminist-communist sexual revolutionaries ahead of their time How the United States was founded to protect liberty, not white males' ill-gotten wealth Why Americans of the "Greatest Generation" were not the equivalent of Nazi war criminals How the Viet Cong were not well-meaning community leaders advocating for local self-rule Why the Black Panthers were not civil rights leaders Grabar also reveals Zinn's bag of dishonest rhetorical tricks: his slavish reliance on partisan history, explicit rejection of historical balance, and selective quotation of sources to make them say the exact opposite of what their authors intended. If you care about America's past—and our future—you need this book.

a peoples history of the supreme court: Gangs of America Ted Nace, 2005-09-11 'Gangs of America' traces the evolution of the corporation, one of the core institutions of the modern world. It ties political debates about multi-national trade agreements, financial scandals and scores of other specific issues into the narrative account.

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account of each justice's proslavery position, the reasoning behind his opposition to black freedom, and the incentives created by circumstances in his private life. Finkelman uses census data and other sources to reveal that Justice Marshall aggressively bought and sold slaves throughout his lifetime—a fact that biographers have ignored. Justice Story never owned slaves and condemned slavery while riding circuit, and yet on the high court he remained silent on slave trade cases and ruled against blacks who sued for freedom. Although Justice Taney freed many of his own slaves, he zealously and consistently opposed black freedom, arguing in *Dred Scott* that free blacks had no Constitutional rights and that slave owners could move slaves into the Western territories. Finkelman situates this infamous holding within a solid record of support for slavery and hostility to free blacks. *Supreme Injustice* boldly documents the entanglements that alienated three major justices from America's founding ideals and embedded racism ever deeper in American civic life.

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