



THE TORCH

— Texas Eagle Forum —

March 2020 • Volume 33/Number 3

Photo: DD Johnston



Mary Garbar, Ph.D., holding her book exposing Zinn's revisionist history of the U.S.

“Debunking Howard Zinn”

By **Robert Knight**, *The Washington Times*, 1/5/20

Why do so many young people hate America and think we'd be better off as a socialist country?

We've all heard about the impact of “fake news,” but there's something even more dangerous: teaching “fake history.”

“If you think that it is outrageous that Democratic presidential candidates want to eliminate the southern border and that Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez calls our detention facilities there ‘concentration camps,’ then you haven't been reading and believing Howard Zinn's best-selling *A People's History of the United States*,”

writes **Mary Grabar**, Ph.D.

First published in 1980, *A People's History* has sold more than 2.5 million copies and is in virtually every school district, university, and local library.

Zinn (1922–2010) chaired the history and social sciences departments at Spelman College (which he helped radicalize), and was a political science professor at Boston University.

A People's History paints America as a darkly evil nation whose every advance came at others' expense. In 2007, *A Young People's History of the United States* was published in two volumes (*Columbus to the Spanish-American War* and

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Class Struggle to the War on Terror).

In her long-needed and extensive corrective, *Debunking Howard Zinn*, Ms. Grabar provides numerous examples of Zinn's revisionism:

- America discoverer Christopher Columbus? A genocidal maniac, driven by lust for gold and murder. Zinn juxtaposed passages from Columbus' diaries to construct outright lies about him.
- The English settlers at Jamestown, Virginia, and Plymouth, Massachusetts? Perpetrators of "genocide."
- America's Founders? Greedy exploiters who fought a revolution not for liberty but for their own class-driven acquisition of wealth and power.
- The United States in World War II? No better than Hitler's Germany or Japan. In fact, America fought only because our "main interest was not stopping Fascism but advancing the imperial interests of the United States."
- The Marshall Plan, in which the United States spent billions restoring war-torn Europe? The real purpose was "to creat[e] a network of American corporate control over the globe."
- America's internment of Japanese-Americans during the war? No different from Hitler's extermination camps, in which 6 million Jews were systematically murdered.
- North Vietnamese Communist leader Ho Chi Minh? A people's leader and liberator.

"Everything Zinn wrote was couched in the language of Marxist class warfare."

Everything Zinn wrote was couched in the language of Marxist class warfare. Key events were omitted. The mass slaughter that followed the Communist takeover of Cambodia? Good luck finding it in *A People's History*. Like his fellow Communist historians in Moscow, Zinn conveniently "disappeared" the more than 2 million murdered by Cambodia's Communist dictator Pol Pot.

Zinn was a member of numerous Soviet front groups, and he helped found the socialist New Party, which helped Barack Obama launch his political career. Zinn mentored a young neighbor in Connecticut, Matt Damon, who went on to be a movie star, and who plugged *A People's History* in his film, *Good Will Hunting*.

Zinn helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a communist organization that

undermined the non-communist National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and instigated political violence.

As for fake history, "Zinn did everything—misrepresented sources, omitted critical information, falsified evidence, and plagiarized," Ms. Grabar writes. "Zinn liked to pretend [that] he wrote a 'people's' history, telling the bottom-up story of neglected and forgotten men and women. The problem is that he falsified American history to promote Communist revolution. ... all the while denying that he was a Communist."

Before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Zinn warned that concern over communism was due to "hysteria," and he denied that there was any worldwide movement anchored in the USSR and Communist China.

In 1967, he lectured that, "We need to get accustomed to the idea that there will be more Communist countries in the world, and that this is not necessarily bad."

In a chapter titled "The Coming Revolt of the Guards," a term that includes homeowners, taxpayers, and other middle-class folk, Zinn states flatly that "capitalism has always been a failure for the lower classes. It is now beginning to fail for the middle class."

That would be news to a lot of people. Most of America's poor live better than billions of people around the world who don't have electricity, indoor plumbing, televisions, cars, smartphones, access to medical care and dentistry, and other modern advances.

After this predicted "revolt," Zinn envisions a utopian future in which "certain basic things" would be "taken out of the money system and be available—free—to everyone: food, housing, health care, education, transportation."

If this sounds familiar, it's because leading Democrats, like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, are promising the same pie-in-the-sky results to their Free Stuff Army. To pay for it, both plan massive tax increases on what's left of the private sector.

The reason this insane, economically illiterate, un-American scheme appeals to so many is that they've been miseducated via Howard Zinn into thinking that they live in a bad country that must be rebuilt as a socialist paradise.

A People's History of the United States should be taken out of the schools and relegated, like *The Communist Manifesto*, to libraries. But there should be a copy of *Debunking Howard Zinn* right next to it.

NOTE: Wilfred M. McClay, a University of Oklahoma history professor, has written an "antidote" to Zinn's flawed history book, entitled Land of Hope: An Invitation To The Great American Story. Book reviewer Michael Taube writes, "The American essence has been brilliantly captured and portrayed with wit, charm, and elegance in Mr. McClay's book. Hence, it's a welcome replacement for Mr. Zinn's tired, negative apologia that has incorrectly defined the United States for too long." Parents and grandparents who care about their children's understanding of their own country and culture should purchase Land of Hope as a supplement to the history that students learn in school.

Snippets From the 31st Education Policy Conference

Eagle Forum partnered with Donna Hearne's The Constitutional Coalition to present the Educational Policy Conference in St. Louis, January 30–February 2, 2020. The conference title was “Socialism and Sexualization” and cut to the heart of the problems that are destroying public education in the United States. Below are just some of the topics discussed:

TOPIC: Gender Ideology Harms Children

Michelle Cretella, MD is a pediatrician and President of the American College of Pediatricians. The American College of Pediatricians urges healthcare professionals, educators, and legislators to reject all policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Facts—not ideology—determine reality:

1. Human sexuality is an objective biological binary trait defined by how we as a species reproduce.
2. There is no medical test for a “gender identity.” No one is born with a “gender identity.”
3. People who believe they are something they are not are, at best, confused.
4. Puberty is not a disease; the absence of puberty is.
5. The vast majority of very young children with gender incongruence will outgrow it when supported through natural puberty.
6. Most gender-distressed teens are ordinary girls and boys who are anxious, depressed, traumatized, and uncomfortable with their bodies, and struggling with their identity.
7. There is no evidence that puberty blockers are reversible as is claimed. Puberty blockers also have very harmful effects.
8. Rates of suicide are high among adults who undergo sex reassignment.
9. Conditioning children into believing a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse.

ACTION STEP: Check out the “First Do No Harm” Campaign: kelseycoalition.org/our-projects

TOPIC: Porn As A Public Health Crisis

Becky Gerritson is the Executive Director of Alabama Eagle Forum. “Pornography is pervasive, addictive, impacts lives in the family and community, is against the law, is not victimless, and fuels human trafficking.”

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Talk to your kids/grandkids about porn and how to protect themselves. Use Brain Heart World video: Brainheartworld.com or “Good Pictures Bad Pictures” books as a conversation starter.
2. Find out what apps your kids are using.
3. Install SaferNet (SaferNet.com) on ALL of your devices! SaferNet is proactive; it is both blocking and accountability software. A SaferNet user is stopped from ever viewing porn; no damage is done. Because the administrator is contacted, the user is also held accountable. Now the user and administrator can have an accountability conversation while the damage of

- pornography was never inflicted on the user.
4. Introduce a resolution declaring “Porn as A Public Health Crisis” in your state.

ACTION STEPS: National Center on Sexual Exploitation: endsexualexploitation.org, and use the Dirty Dozen list to know the commercial industries that are profiting off of pornography and stop supporting them: endsexualexploitation.org/dirtydozen-2019.

TOPIC: Our Family Survived Sex Trafficking – A Mother/Daughter Journey

Kelly and Courtney Litvak, founder and Ambassador for Childproof America, respectively. In 2016, Kelly's teenage daughter, Courtney, fell victim to human trafficking in their upscale suburban community outside Houston, Texas. After being off the grid for several long and painful years, Courtney returned to her family who remained fully committed to supporting Courtney on her journey of recovery. The tragedy forced the family to recognize significant gaps in support services for parents with missing and exploited children, leading to the formation of **Childproof America**, an organization dedicated to safeguarding families against sex trafficking.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Keenly understand the crime of human trafficking and child exploitation.
2. Secure access points such as social media and gaming systems.
3. Remove the mindset of “not my kid.” This crime doesn't discriminate. Traffickers gain easier access when parents and caregivers are uninformed with a false sense of security.

TOPIC: Young Americans Against Socialism

Morgan Zegers is the founder of **Young Americans Against Socialism** (yaas.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and appealing to younger generations about the dangers of socialism. “Our generation has good intentions, but was not properly educated on socialism versus capitalism. They are being taken advantage of and lied to by far-Left leaders like Bernie Sanders. Who is the real enemy in this fight? It's not young people confused about socialism, it's the leaders at the top tricking them. It's time to equip our generation with the truth about socialism before it's too late. That's why I founded YAAS.” She lists the “Three Pillars of the American Left's Socialist Playbook” (and how it relates to previous socialist movements throughout history):

1. Control and Distort the Language (“Road to Serfdom”)
2. Create Desire for Wealth Redistribution (Student Loan Crisis)
3. Create Sense of Fear and Urgency (Climate Change).

ACTION STEPS: Have a conversation with the young people in your life about the importance of a strong economy and the historic failures of socialism, and learn what they are being taught about capitalism versus socialism in the classroom.

SOURCE: Eagle Forum

Sesame Street, Brought to You by the Letters L-G-B-T

In the transgender debate, even Bert and Ernie are puppets for the Left! Incredibly, *Sesame Street*, the once-beloved kids' show, is making the best case for defunding PBS yet: inviting drag queen Billy Porter on to teach kids the virtues of gender confusion. Wearing a "tuxedo dress," Porter, the star of *Kinky Boots*, tweeted about the appearance. "I was tickled to meet Elmo and the gang," he posted. Parents, on the other hand, aren't nearly so thrilled. More than 55,000 have signed a LifeSite petition calling on the network to drop the episode. "By contributing to this social contagion, *Sesame Street* is forcing children to deal with adult concepts and notions about sexuality which are beyond their level of maturity, and which can leave psychological scars. Many jurisdictions define this kind of behavior as abuse... We are demanding the producers of *Sesame Street* stop this attack on children and their innocence." SOURCE: Tony Perkins, Family Research Council, 2/13/20

A New Way to Reduce Student Loan Debt

In a recent interview, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos was asked about student loan debt, which some Democrat-Socialists want to forgive. "There are other ways to get at this ... without congressional action," DeVos says. "One of the things we've done is to add a lot of important information to what is called the College Scorecard. Students can go and compare field of studies between institutions to see how much it will cost ... and then what their first year (after graduation) earning potential is. It is based on real data of those who completed the programs before. We hope students will use this information to make better and wiser decisions of what they are going to pursue from a higher-ed perspective." SOURCE: Cal Thomas, "DeVos Doubles Down on Education Reforms," *The Patriot Post*, 2/15/20

West Point Training to Fight "Toxic Masculinity" Not War

West Point and its leadership are under fire for hosting a third annual "Honorable Living Day," in which cadets held a "stand down" day to discuss diversity and inclusion, and receive a heavy dose of anti-male lecturing from left-wing luminaries. According to the *Army Times*, cadets, faculty, and staff discussed how to build "cohesive teams" and "combat" issues such as sexual assault and harassment by creating an atmosphere that respects "diversity" and "inclusion." However, the one-day event included much more: cadets were required to view two far-left documentaries that discuss sexism and "toxic masculinity," and featured interviews with Jane Fonda, Rosie O'Donnell, and Rep. Nancy Pelosi. The one-day event angered Jerry Boykin, the retired U.S. Army lieutenant general, who once commanded U.S. Special Operations and is now executive vice president at the Family Research Council. The purpose of the one-day event was not to improve the readiness of the U.S. military. "It is a reflection of what was forced on our military in the Obama administration," said Boykin. "The disappointing thing is that it's still there..." SOURCE: OneNewsNow.com, 2/4/20

Pew Study: GOP-Dems Massively Divided on Climate Change

Americans are sharply divided along partisan lines when it comes to how high a priority fighting climate change should be for the government, according to a survey published by the Pew Research Center. Combating climate change was the rock-bottom concern for Republicans, with only 21 percent saying it should be a top priority, while for Democrats it was among the most important issues, with 78 percent saying it was a top policy concern. Unsurprisingly, the second widest policy divide after climate change is the related issue of the environment, with 85 percent of Democrats, but just 39 percent of Republicans, rating it as a key issue. The next most significant partisan bone of contention is over "gun policy," with 66 percent of Democrats and only 25 percent of Republicans deeming the matter a key issue for policy makers. On a number of other issues, such as Social Security, crime, drug addiction, and jobs, Republicans and Democrats registered near perfect agreement. SOURCE: Breitbart.com, 2/15/20

Quote of the Month

"Focus too much on what is unexceptional about America—the flaws in human nature that are universal to mankind—and we can easily miss what is exceptional..."

~ Author Jarrett Stepman, in his book, *The War on History: The Conspiracy to Rewrite America's Past*

Great American Quote

"The record of socialism is one of death and destruction, and that's the path we could go down if these lessons aren't taught anew to each new generation."

~ Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) in his new book, *The Case Against Socialism*, Cato's Letter, Winter 2020

Texas Eagle Forum

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