



Lies My Teacher Told Me about Christopher Columbus: What Your History Books Got Wrong

James W. Loewen

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In *Lies My Teacher Told Me About Christopher Columbus*, the bestselling author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me* offers a graphic corrective to the Columbus story told in so many American classrooms. First published over fifteen years ago and long out-of-print, the poster and accompanying paperback book sum up the mis-tellings—and reveal the real story—in a graphically appealing and accessible format.

In vintage Loewen fashion, the poster juxtaposes short quotes from a range of high school textbooks currently in use, with excerpts from primary sources that clearly show how textbooks have "lied" by knowingly substituting crowd-pleasing myths for grim and gruesome historical evidence.

In fact, these textbooks intentionally omitted every important detail that we do know about Columbus's fateful voyage to the Americas. Among countless other facts, Loewen demonstrates that Columbus and his men were far from the first to set foot in the "New World," and that the peoples he encountered there did not submit to the "god-like" authority of him and his crewmen, but rather to the deadly forms of smallpox and bubonic plague they brought with them from Europe.

In concise, deeply engaging prose, Loewen expands on these little-discussed facts, putting them in the larger context of a discussion of "truth" and revisionist history.

Lies My Teacher Told Me about Christopher Columbus: What Your History Books Got Wrong Details

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From Reader Review Lies My Teacher Told Me about Christopher Columbus: What Your History Books Got Wrong for online ebook

Edward ott says

A great deal of the history we are taught in school is actually just propaganda. This book exposes much of the propaganda half truths and lies we are told about Columbus

Dolores Johnson says

Eye-opening; basically explains digging deeper and not believing everything you read/are told.

Shyam says

A bit dry, but this is a must-read for anyone who grew up in the US or wonders why we Americans can be so ignorant about our own history.

Hannah says

I liked the premise of the book but hated the author's tone.
It's eye opening and embarrassing. I'm intrigued enough to read up more on the topic.

Justin Thompson says

Great for anyone who wants to truly understand history.

Elizabeth says

Entertaining if a bit one-note. I finished it feeling fairly impotent-ragey. Interesting though.

Royce Ratterman says

An interesting read with many facts included for the reader's future research efforts.
Overall, a good book for the researcher and enthusiast.

Read for personal research

- found this book's contents helpful and inspiring - number rating relates to the book's contribution to my needs.

Christopher says

While a good portion of it becoming common knowledge, this book does an excellent job at surveying popular American History textbooks and compares the prevalence of certain topics which the author considers under-appreciated or mis-taught in schools. While I didn't agree with the author in the importance of certain subject matter, and the author's liberal bias begins to show more readily during the labor chapters, it doesn't minimize the heroification of American History found in textbooks.

Harvey Smith says

The books we learned history from were watered down, and in many cases, plain inaccurate. It's like many times the history in the books is a history as the author wishes it was.

All that said, I enjoyed this book, as it made me think about finding out more about a lot of historical happenings, other than the simple ideas I've been presented with.

Joseph says

fun, even if you don't like history. Only slightly political.

Jared says

I like history. There was a good deal of facts in the book that were eye opening. I don't dispute those facts. In fact I looked up in Wikipedia and verified a great many of them. Which leads me to my disagreement with the author. There was definitely a political slant to the book. Ok I like to hear both sides of the story. In fact, that was one of his points, that history is a debate more than it is set of facts. Then he throws a lot, and I mean a lot of facts. Sort of defeating his own arguments.

If it was a book about facts and another side of history (4 stars)

If it was a book about why history textbooks are flawed (5 stars)

A book that mixes the two in a long drawn out rhetoric (2 1/2 stars)

Hint: go research Wikipedia, explore its sources, search the web, and form your own opinions.

Rui says

A mind-blowing must-read in your lifetime. It will definitely make you uneasy. But you need it...

C.C. Thomas says

The whole time I read this book, I could only think of the recent (February 2015) movement by Oklahoma lawmakers that banned certain AP history courses because they didn't teach "American' exceptionalism". If there were ever a case of needing a book in American classrooms, this is it and Oklahoma just proved it. I feel this book should most certainly be required for ALL history teachers (and probably for all Oklahoma lawmakers!). The fact that, according to the book, so many teachers of history are ignorant on this subject is frightening. As a teacher (although not of history), I know this to be true. Many teacher's programs do not focus on giving teachers relevant information so much as indoctrinating them into whatever current educational philosophy is in swing. For the past fifteen years, testing has been in vogue and true academic thought and research have gone out the window as American teachers strive to teach kids to bubble in the right answer. This book does what a book should: makes you think and question and argue and rage. And, then think some more.

This is NOT a book of revisionist history, but rather a book of actual history. While many of the stories were old news to me (heinous Christopher Columbus and the genocide of American Indians, for example), many of the items in the book were new for me to read about. That scared me quite a bit. I like to think of myself as an armchair historian, but clearly I've not been getting the full story. It was so disappointing and disheartening to read about the Vietnam War, a topic I have never been taught and only know about from the news. The beauty of the book isn't that it necessarily rewrites American history; rather, it is the questioning the book causes. I had to stop at several points and go look up and read about some of these topics. Surely, some of the facts must be wrong, right? Unfortunately, no. What I found only mirrors what we see on TV everyday: the same event told in completely different versions by members of opposing political natures that eventually comes out not resembling truth in the least. It fascinates me to see how we change our version of history to make ourselves (Americans) look better. I'm still a bit perplexed by many items in the book and have added several new titles to my list of books to read later.

Overall, this is probably a book most fascinating to teachers, especially teachers of history, and anyone interested in history. It isn't a book to pick up if you want inspiring stories of heroism or general knowledge, but that makes it all the more important and relevant.
