



48 Liberal Lies About American History: (That You Probably Learned in School)

Larry Schweikart

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A historian debunks four-dozen PC myths about our nation's past.

Over the last forty years, history textbooks have become more and more politically correct and distorted about our country's past, argues professor Larry Schweikart. The result, he says, is that students graduate from high school and even college with twisted beliefs about economics, foreign policy, war, religion, race relations, and many other subjects.

As he did in his popular *A Patriot's History of the United States*, Professor Schweikart corrects liberal bias by rediscovering facts that were once widely known. He challenges distorted books by name and debunks forty-eight common myths. A sample:

- The founders wanted to create a wall of separation between church and state
 - Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation only because he needed black soldiers
 - Truman ordered the bombing of Hiroshima to intimidate the Soviets with atomic diplomacy
 - Mikhail Gorbachev, not Ronald Reagan, was responsible for ending the Cold War
- America's past, though not perfect, is far more admirable than you were probably taught.

From the Hardcover edition.

48 Liberal Lies About American History: (That You Probably Learned in School) **Details**

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN :

Author : Larry Schweikart

Format : Kindle Edition 332 pages

Genre : History, Politics, Nonfiction, North American Hi..., American History

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Bala says

The book is twisted. I did not enjoy it.

History of any nation is prone to get revised as time goes on. Leaders, who are common men/women, get elevated to a hero/demi-god status. Facts get left out and only accomplishments are remembered.

Not all revisionist historians have a hidden agenda. It is simply their interpretation and understanding of the facts.

This book is trying too hard to paint other authors as vicious liberal lie mongers.

Brian S. Wise says

Here is another book that collapses under the weight of its own gimmick. Books like “48 Liberal Lies” happen because there is a desire among writers and publishers to produce books that rely on gimmicks to grab and hold the modern American’s attention span. With forty-eight chapters, no particular repudiation is allowed to take up too much room, meaning that the reader is often privy to only rough sketches of an argument against something.

You’ll rarely hear me say this, but this book should have been much longer, and would have done well without the gimmick. Numerous chapters could have been combined and expanded upon, turning them into meaningful pieces. If you must stay with the gimmick, go with five or ten; forty-eight unnecessarily bogs down what *might* have been an honest effort to say something.

Lisa says

Bruce gave me this for Christmas as a joke. In the spirit of good will I am reading it. I am half-way through it and it is a horrible piece of right slanted slander. I will finish it because it's always good to get inside the head of opposing viewpoints, but it sure does raise my blood pressure!!

William says

Good overview of some of the major flaws in modern college history texts. Should be read as a companion to typical college history texts.

Amy Sawyer says

With 45 pages of endotes, one can hardly say it isn't well-researched. Professor Schweikart does a fantastic

job of providing a concise and fact-based accounting of historical people and events, which are under threat of "revision" by those who cannot be bothered with research, facts or objectivity.

Facts are pesky things that have a nasty habit of tripping up those who choose to ignore them.

Anna says

This book is very eye-opening. You know the saying those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it? Well, it's a bit hard to learn from history when the history that is being taught and learned is such a slanted view of what actually happened. The same mistakes will be made over and over again, and the liberals will just put the focus and the blame on someone else.

A lot of these lies are hurting our country right now. :(

Elevate Difference says

48 Liberal Lies About American History is a shocking read. In formatting this book, Larry Schweikart states a "liberal lie", and then provides evidentiary support to refute claims made. However, at times, he fails to realize that some of these "liberal arguments" are much more nuanced than the ones he posits.

Of particular interest is his take on "Lie # 14: Women had no rights in Early America." Schweikart takes issue with Carol Berkin's and Mary Beth Norton's statement in Women of America that, "The United States had founding mothers... but on the whole our history celebrates only the white founding fathers." I researched Berkin's and Norton's text; in fact, they do not dispute that women had rights in early America. What they do find problematic is the relative superiority of men to women prior to and after the American Revolution, and the continued espousal of patriarchal society. Schweikart skews their argument, making it far more extreme than it really is.

Moreover, in discussing why men dominate the medical field, Schweikart says, "Doctors—in an age without anesthesia—had to perform surgery and occasionally amputate limbs while restraining a patient who was protesting to no small degree... Small and less physically powerful women were at an important disadvantage in such work—but not in being midwives, which was exclusively a female domain." I found Schweikart's words extremely sexist and antifeminist. Schweikart easily falls prey to the claim that men are physically superior to women. For years, this school of thought has served to perpetuate a gender hierarchy. Here, Schweikart hardly acknowledges gender historians who would rightly repudiate his analysis. In fact, Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to graduate from medical school in 1849, became a physician before the widespread use of anesthesia.

There is much more to be criticized in Schweikart's book. Indeed, Schweikart could not possibly imagine that any history text teaches that "The News Media Is Objective, Fair and Balanced – and Always Has Been." Even a superficial study of American history debunks this notion. For example, in 1898, yellow journalism—the sensationalism and distortion of facts—surrounding the sinking of the USS Maine clearly led to the declaration of the Spanish-American War. In his attempt to introduce the conservative viewpoint in these historical discussions, Schweikart makes radical assertions that even those on the right might find disturbing. The intention of his book is honorable; however, Schweikart will need to reconfigure some of his arguments if he seeks to gain a wider audience for his work.

Linda Munro says

One important aspect about this book is the continuation of the title..."that you probably learned in school"

So what did I think of this book? I was extremely interested in the book because of the extended portion of the title; I was actually concerned about what my grandchildren (or maybe even me) was or had learned concerning American history. First and foremost; I was never taught any of these so-called lies, not in grammar school, not in Junior or Senior high and not in college. So, I began to quiz my grandchildren, who range in age from 5 to 16; to date, none of my grandchildren have been taught any of these so-called lies. So, that left me with only one option....research these so-called lies by myself.

I did learn that approximately 99.9% of these so-called lies were indeed lies; however, the author of the book should have taken some advice himself "Repeat a fib often enough and it becomes accepted truth." It is my firm belief that this man either read up on historical conspiracy theories or decided it would be fun to screw with history because sooner or later, people who read this book would start discussing the fact that these lies were really taught in our schools or in the future, someone would use his book as a reference, taking the entire line of bull as fact.

The biggest problem I had with this book was that the author's explanation as to why the stated so-called lie was indeed a lie, in about 90% of the explanations did not justify what he was trying to get his readers to believe; but then.... "Repeat a fib often enough and it becomes accepted truth."

Sean Chick says

I think this book would make more sense if he substituted "liberal" for "New Left" because that is who he is really attacking. As a liberal I found this book insulting. As a historian, I disagree with many of his assertions. As someone who has not even been taught half the "myths" he "explodes", I find it comical.

Emily says

I could not finish this book. I am not an extreme liberal or an extreme conservative, but I do like to stay informed of both view points. This book made that actually impossible. Most of the "lies" were things I have never even heard about and the author's explanation did not make sense. He picked small parts to over-emphasize and just did not stop.

One sticks out in my mind: that Columbus, himself, actually killed millions of indigenous Americans. Has anyone else ever made that claim? In the history of the world? I don't think so.

I love political books but when they don't even try to show multiple view points I feel like they are mostly worthless.

Kathy says

A thinly veiled excuse to justify the Bush presidency, I don't know why I even bothered.

Tom says

Great book tackling some tough subjects exposing liberal bias' in our textbooks. I like that it is well sourced and not simply an opinion book. Also gives good examples of the fallout of some of our political policies, what Thomas Sowell calls "Beyond Stage One" thinking.

Diana says

OK, so I got this book from my mother. Not one I would have picked up otherwise- the title alone is enough to make me cringe. However, taken with a grain of salt (as every political book ought to be taken) I found it very interesting. Anyone wanting to get to the truth ought to study both perspectives IMO.

Debbi says

Each of the 'lies' was summarized in a few, concise pages. There were several that I remembered having been 'taught' -- and some that were so outrageous, I was stunned that anyone believes such drivel. For those who are convinced that they don't like history or that nothing important is ever misconstrued or misrepresented, this is a perfect book.

Richard says

Some new perspective on the old stories. Extensively footnoted, it allows the reader to go and do his/her own research to confirm/refute the assertions of either side of the argument. And, if you don't believe what he's saying in this book, please go do your own research and THEN write your review.
