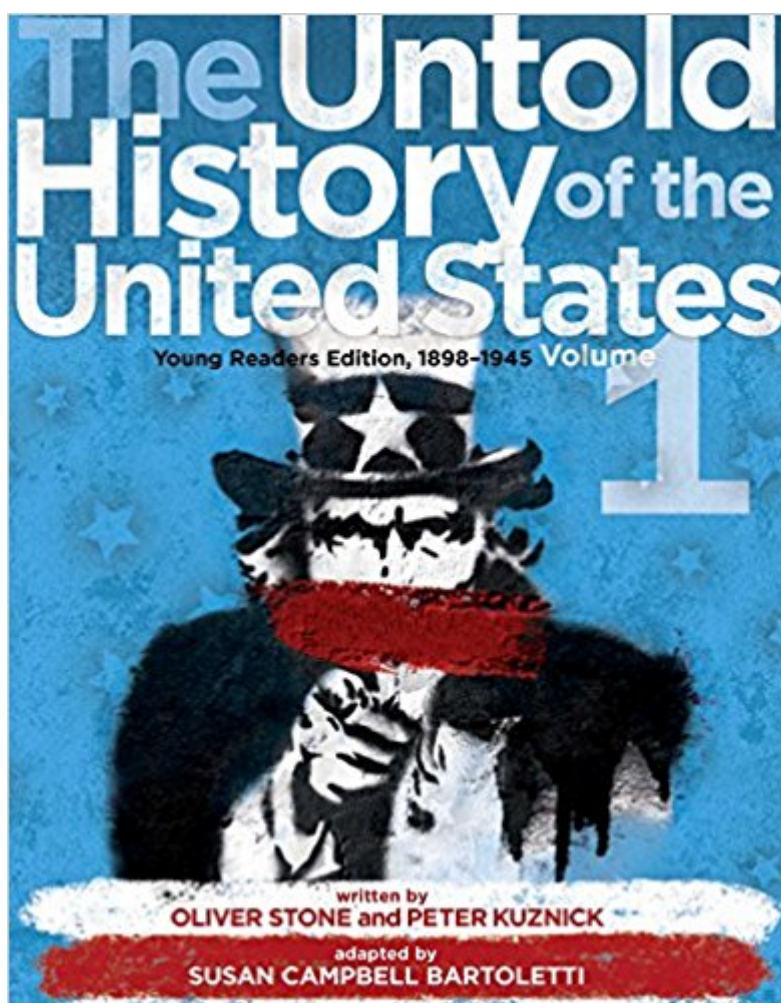




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# The Untold History Of The United States, Volume 1: Young Readers Edition, 1898-1945



## Synopsis

The truth about America is revealed in this first of four volumes of the young readers' edition of *The Untold History of the United States*, from Academy Award-winning director Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick, adapted by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. There is history as we know it. And there is history we should have known. Complete with photos, illustrations, and little-known documents, this first of four volumes covers crucial moments in American history from the late nineteenth century to the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This is not the kind of history taught in schools or normally presented on television or in popular movies. This riveting young readers' edition challenges prevailing orthodoxies to reveal the dark reality about the rise and fall of the American empire for curious, budding historians who are hungry for the truth. Based on the latest archival findings and recently declassified information, this book will come as a surprise to the vast majority of students and their teachers—and that's precisely why this edition is such a crucial counterpoint to today's history textbooks. Adapted by Newbery Honor recipient Susan Campbell Bartoletti from the bestselling book and companion to the documentary *The Untold History of the United States* by Academy Award-winning director Oliver Stone and renowned historian Peter Kuznick, this volume presents young readers with a powerful and provocative look at the past century of American imperialism.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—•This adaptation of Stone and Kuznick's adult companion to Stone's Showtime network documentary examines instances where the United States "has betrayed its mission and the ideals of its own Constitution," especially in foreign affairs. As one might expect, the authors are critical of American politics and policies, discussing American imperialism in the Spanish American War, the malevolent dominance of armament and financial interests in World War I, and inadequate relief and reform during the Great Depression. About half of the book is devoted to World War II; the authors credit the Soviet Union for the Allied victory in Europe and criticize British and American failures to fully aid the Soviets and respect their need for a postwar buffer zone in Eastern Europe. They lionize Franklin Roosevelt's second vice president, the very progressive Henry Wallace, and are extremely critical of "small man" Harry Truman, whom they claim unnecessarily unleashed the atomic bomb on an already defeated Japan to diminish Soviet power and influence. The adaptation uses only a fraction of the adult title's content and is short on background and introductory material necessary for context. Contrary to the title's claim, much of this material is discussed in secondary history texts and YA library titles. It is similar in perspective to the second volume of Howard Zinn's *A Young People's History of the United States* (Seven Stories, 2007) and falls short of the objective coverage and analysis sought by most school libraries.—•Mary Mueller, Rolla Public Schools, MO --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

\* STARRED REVIEW \* —“The darker side of the "American Century," recast for younger audiences—| the authors also point to other turning points and near misses that are rarely if ever part of standard school curricula.—• (Kirkus Reviews) —“[This book] contains more mind-blowing information, insightful analysis, and revisionist theorizing than all of my other 2014 favorites put together. I see America—,s history far differently after reading this volume, the first of four—| there are places where grownups prefer that students avoid reading anything that could be construed as questioning the greatness and moral authority of the United States. But for those of us who want to be enlightened and enlighten others, this is a must-have.—• (Richie Partington *Richie's Picks*)

I wish I had this book when I was in school!

great read for kids

That's is the story about America known to the rest of the world not to Americans.

Nice to read an accurate history

Everyone should read this.

Amazing book. Must read.

This book is simply a wonderful contribution to the education of our country's young minds...all history and no propaganda. Children who are fortunate enough to have this in their curriculum will develop needed critical thinking skills that will enable them to contribute to solving the many complex problems that face the United States. There is indeed hope for the future when our children are taught the truth that enables them to understand how the United States is viewed in the world and why. BRAVO!!

There is something about the historical narrative proposed by Peter Kuznick and Oliver Stone that hits the reader square in the face. Instead of working to repair what has already been told, the authors take the heretical route of legitimately substantiating an entirely different account of events. It is this accounting that is foundationally important to any honest historical education. Intellectually debased by an insufficiently critical public education, young adults like myself emerge from the University ideologically ripe for cooptation and bewilderment by unending misinformation and distortion as it parades across media space. The Untold History of the United States attempts to remedy this deplorable state of affairs for those of us unable to recoup our primary education. However, Kuznick and Stone have gone multiple steps further. In addition to the twelve-part documentary series, the Young Readers Edition of Untold History aims at providing English-speaking young people with the historical tools to break through the tired old tropes of American Exceptionalism and Benevolence. It seems like an exercise in stating the obvious to say that we ought not mislead the next generation, yet our discursive tradition constantly reifies national myths, continuing to produce a citizenry incapable of challenging established institutions and national ideologies. This series of historical volumes works to undo the emaciation of the American

political perspective by introducing a substantive and badly needed critique of the world's most destructive and violent State – the USA. The evidence presented is undoubtedly a history revised – a response to a dominant narrative in desperate need of revision. Like Howard Zinn before them, Kuznick and Stone have defied accepted wisdoms and accounts handed down from elite institutions. They offer your children and our young ones an opportunity to object in a meaningful way. An opportunity to ground systemic critique, not only in the contemporary crimes of the current power structure, but also in the patterns and trends of US Imperial power in the 20th Century. Read this book to your children. Not only will the Young Readers Edition give them perspectives entirely unavailable in most public educational institutions, but it will also cause you to question your own understandings of the global system. So often the phrase “power to the people” is couched in a purely rhetorical context that renders it almost meaningless. However, the richness of the material in Untold History is empowering in a very real way. If successful, it will change and shape minds for years to come.

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