



The Untold History of the United States, Volume 1: Young Readers Edition, 1898-1945

By Oliver Stone, Peter Kuznick

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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.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

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

Review

* **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*)

About the Author

Oliver Stone made such iconic films as *Platoon*, *Wall Street*, *JFK*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Natural Born Killers*, *Nixon*, *Salvador*, and *W.*

Peter Kuznick is professor of history and director of the award-winning Nuclear Studies Institute at American University and is currently serving his fourth term as distinguished lecturer with the Organization of American Historians. He has written extensively about science and politics, nuclear history, and Cold War culture.

Susan Campbell Bartoletti writes poetry, short stories, picture books, novels, and nonfiction for young readers. She is best known for her nonfiction work, which has received dozens of awards and honors, including the ALA Newbery Honor, the ALA Robert F. Sibert Award for Nonfiction, the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Nonfiction, the SCBWI Golden Kite Award for Nonfiction, and the Jane Addams Children's Book Award.

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John Sanchez:

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