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## HISTORY

History is a record or account of events that happened in the past. It is important to study history as it helps us understand our culture and where we came from and also to understand how our thoughts, practices and beliefs have changed over the years. Historian James Loewen explores how historical myths continue to be perpetuated in today's happenings. He also states that objectivity is impossible and that it is also undesirable and should not be expected to serve the progress of the human race. He also observes that pilgrims who came to New England were coming to a territory inhabited by Indians portraying them as peaceful and not intruders (Loewen 168).

James Loewen descriptions of racism and slavery are not aimed at making students cynical but to empower them with knowledge about the past and it is also an intriguing way to teach history. It is also aimed at getting students excited about history because of its curriculum on hidden facts about Americas' past. He also shows how textbooks have "lied" by omitting very important facts about the past. He writes about how Christopher Columbus was not the first to set foot in the "new world" and that the people he found there did not submit to him but rather to the deadly diseases they brought with them from Europe.

Howard Zinn writes about what students are rarely taught about such as how Christopher Columbus treated native Indians and how he took their Gold and took them as slaves working them at a ferocious pace while perishing in numbers due to slavery war and the diseases (

Howard 111). He states that Columbus should not be viewed as a hero but should be seen as one who wanted power and wealth; one who had had the willingness to kill and torture to obtain power and wealth and he quoted “as soon as I arrived in the Indies, on the first island I found, I took some of the natives by force in order that they might learn and might give me information of whatever there is in these parts” (Columbus 1942).

Through history, students are taught how he discovered America, his many voyages and discoveries, his religious grounds to convert natives to Christians. He was concerned about God but the book sheds light on his shadowy past. He also described it as burying the past to create another reality so that students can easily embrace it. James Lowen argued that the way history is taught is full of misinformation and omits all the passion drama and happenings of the past and concluded that none does a job of making the history interesting and memorable to students. Zinn added to this by stating that unfiltered words about historical events makes the students understand more and become more intrigued about the subject. He also added that the inadvertence of important facts in the past can lead to disingenuous of the way we view the present. It was proposed that some of the information about the past is filtered and trimmed so that students do not get incited and rebel against the authoritative figures in their life, their parents and teachers.

In conclusion, books by the two historians continue to be read influencing many scholars because of the new, unique and intriguing new information they had about the past compared to other history textbooks.

## Works Cited

Howard Zinn, *A people's History of the United States*, Harper & Row Harpercollins. 2009. Print.

James Loewen, *Lies my Teacher told me*, The New Press. 1995. Print.