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Use to more realistic terms - crocodiles love power (and money, that also gives some power). We're genetically programmed killer animals. That's why I consider Hominids revolutionary, it paints a much better picture than we have today. Probably all aggressive animals should be castrated. It would make a world a better place, but the means are still wrong, probably. Like Ayn Rand said, everything evil is after "higher (better world) cause".So, a lot had happened in my head during those days, when I read this book, would probably also watch the series, too much to be said here, so saving time I will only note. We already had 1984, or Animal Farm or Brave New World. Sex redefined by Clinton, freedom redefined by Bush and hostilities redefined by Obama. What's for people, like us? Forget democrats and republicans, liberals or conservatives, those are wrong ideologies. All ideologies are wrong, like all models in trading are wrong, and only, as beliefs, help to power-seekers, not you. Power for the people. American empire is on decline already, no one does what U.S. dictators want anymore.How much imperial industrial military complex can go with its wasteful economics? I don't know, but history tells stories about people overthrowing them, when life becomes unbearable.Once again, US Has Killed More Than 20 Million People in 37 "Victim Nations" Since World War II.September 27, 2014One thing can be said right away:If you are an "America is the best ever" person, this book will be your nightmare.However I do not quite understand why, since the authors don't really say so much new stuff actually, they simple put what was previously told in several books into one and especially Stone's name gave it wide attention. They have a lot in it that is technically known simply overshadowed by a lot of myths, which makes books like this one important. However I think covering such a long time period comes at the cost of never going into detail (e.g. if a fellow German is reading this and happens to be Sinti... yeah forget it, the book ignores you like most do), but I don't think you can blame the authors for it since the book covers more than 100 years of USA history and it already has more than 650 pages of text, not counting notes and bibliography. Going into more detail would probably turn this into a book 3-times the size of the Bible.So like I said, they do not go into too much detail except for big turning points but rather are concerned with the patterns that emerge and continue. And I think in that way they are doing a pretty good job, you can question their conclusions and since this was coauthored by Oliver Stone I am sure many will mistrust his methods, but not the facts; and in my eyes that is no different to any other author of history books.What this book tackles in its basis is the myth of American exceptionalism and I guess that might piss a lot of people off since it really doesn't shy away from doing it, ever. Reading this there is a good chance that you will find a lot of your views are challenged, which I liked about the book but others will probably hate.However I am sure most will agree where the book is undoubtedly good: The writing and reading flow. Despite all the information it never felt boring to me and the reading experience was without a doubt good and made this very enjoyable, a lot of history books should do it like this.There are some problems with it though, for instance they say in World War II 27 Million Russians died, which was actually Soviets (which they did right in the documentary series, where they had the forced mass migration that was missing here), which I think was due to the common trap of equating Soviets with Russians, others would be the Tiananmen square massacres whose numbers are contested and also it treats it like just a student's massacre, which is not true since most died all around Beijing, however the info on that is usually scarce so maybe that is the reason. It also looked as if they regarded Japanese people as dark-skinned and part of that is what they did then I wonder what they consider light then. But these were minor things.Also, despite what many say, this book was in some way actually even nicer to American foreign policy than it probably should be, e.g. it never mentioned the thousands of instances of rape in Okinawa by American soldiers or the collecting of body afts as trophies (which might be linked to the practice of scalping during the Wild West) and glossed over a few things about Vietnam. So like I said it's actually nicer than many think.Also not all chapters do equally well, the passages on Bush & Clinton may have been the worst with 9/11 getting stronger again, but the prologue was also very good and made me interested in history more! But despite its flaws, again nothing new for me regarding history books, I think is definitely a recommendable book. At the very least it would get readers to rethink much of what they thought they knew about USA policy, and possibly their own country's policy, over the last century.history you should read-thisJanuary 17, 2014Excellent, though upsetting book. Some of it I knew, some I didn't.Worth reading for anyone who wants to understand our relationship with Iran, Russia, Japan, and Latin America December 5, 2022A terrific book! You never get the chance to hear so many voices, stand up and practice it, as in a book like this... you get the "yeah, yeah, yeah" feeling about most historical events & characters all of us harbor in our heads, but this book gets you past. Most of the quotes on the back of the book are true (enough ... or, fair to SAY). The authors have done the work for you, and you feel like you can see one side of the zipper and then the other side of the zipper, and then they zip it up for you, paragraph by paragraph, line by line, page by page, never losing their focus (or yours - the reader's). It's a terrific book. Funny timing with Christopher NOLAN coming out with an "Oppenheimer" movie, too -- there he is, with the porkpie hat. Plus, here, here's why PYNCHON wrote Gravity's RAINBOW:The war proved that controlling oil supplies was central to projecting and sup- exercising power. Great Britain and Germany tried to cut off each other's of supplies during the war. Great Britain, hurt by German attacks on its oil supply ships, first expressed concern about an oil shortage in early 1916. The Allies also blockaded Germany's access to oil resources, and British Colonel John Norton-Griffiths attempted to lay oil supplies in Romania to waste when Germany moved to seize them in late 1916. Underscoring the importance of these developments, Britain's Lord Curzon pronounced soon after the armistice that "The Allied cause had floated to victory upon a wave of oil." The United States was key to that victory, having met 80 percent of the Allies' wartime petroleum needs. But once the war ended, oil companies were poised to grab whatever 134 new oil-rich territories they could. As Royal Dutch Shell asserted in its 1920 annual report, "We must not be outstripped in this struggle to obtain new territory...our geologists are everywhere where any chance of success exists."Or, maybe this is why:The war proved demoralizing in a myriad of subtle ways as well. The prewar march of civilization grounded in a faith in human progress had been negated by a war that seemed to showcase barbarism and depravity. Put simply, the faith in human capability and human decency had disappeared. This was understandably evident on both sides of the Atlantic. Sigmund Freud, who became a household name in the United States during the 1920s, is a case in point. Freud's prewar emphasis on the tension between the pleasure principle and the reality principle gave way to a postwar pessimism about human nature grounded in his focus on the death instinct.Negative views of human nature were reflected in a loss of faith in essential human capabilities. The army presented psychologists with a vast laboratory on which to conduct experiments in human intelligence and the 3 million inductees provided an extraordinary pool of human guinea pigs. Working with army personnel, many of whom were trained in testing at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, psychologists administered intelligence tests to 1,727,000 recruits, including 41,000 officers. The data accumulated about educational levels were eye-opening. Some 30 percent of the recruits were illiterate. 150 The amount of education varied widely among the different groups, ranging from a median of 6.9 years for native whites and 4.7 years for immigrants to 2.6 years for southern blacks. The results of intelligence tests were even more sobering. The tests-albeit crude and culturally biased-founded an astounding 47 percent of white draftees and 89 percent of blacks to be "imbeciles."Nowhere was the subsequently degraded view of human intelligence more evident than in postwar advertising. The 1920s is often viewed as the golden age of advertising the decade in which the industry really blossomed into the principal capitalist art form. As Merle Curti showed in his study of the advertising industry journal Printer's Ink, before 1910, advertisers, by and large, assumed that consumers were rational and self-interested and could be appealed to on that basis. Between 1910 and 1930, however, the majority of comments indicated that advertisers were viewing consumers as nonrational. As a result, advertisements increasingly abandoned the reason-why approach and appealed to fantasies and emotions. A speaker at a 1923 advertising convention in Atlantic City captured this sense when he warned, "Appeal to reason in your advertising, and you appeal to about four percent of the human race." This sentiment became accepted wisdom among advertisers. William Esty of the J. Walter Thompson agency instructed colleagues that all experts believed "that it is futile to try to appeal to masses of people on an intellectual or logical basis." John Bernson, the president of the American Association of Advertising Agencies, observed in 1927, "To tell the naked truth might make no appeal. It may be necessary to fool people for their own good. Doctors and even preachers know that and practice it. Average intelligence is surprisingly low. It is so much more effectively guided by its subconscious impulses and instincts than by its reason."Anyway, here's the seeds planted for the rest of the century, in three paragraphs:Despite their indebtedness, the Allies balked at Wilson's terms. Having paid such a high price for victory, they had little interest in Wilson's lofty rhetoric about making the world safe for democracy, freedom of the seas, and "peace without victory." They wanted revenge, new colonies, and naval dominance. Wilson had already betrayed one of the central tenets by intervening in the Russian Civil War and maintaining forces in the country. More betrayals would follow. The British made it clear that they had no intention of abiding by Wilson's call for freedom of the seas, which would have limited their navy's ability to enforce British trade routes. The French made it equally clear they would not accept a nonpunitive treaty. France had lost over a million soldiers and Great Britain just under a million. British Prime Minister David Lloyd George noted that in the United States "not a shack" had been destroyed." The French also remembered their defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, further fueling their desire to debilitate and dismember Germany.Twenty-seven nations met in Paris on January 12, 1919. The task ahead of them was enormous. To varying degrees, the Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian, German, and Russian empires were collapsing. New countries were emerging. Revolutionary change was encroaching. Starvation was rampant. Disease was spreading. Displaced populations were seeking refuge. Visionary leadership was desperately needed. But Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando found Wilson, who considered himself the "personal instrument of God," to be absolutely insufferable." Clemenceau supposedly commented, "Mr. Wilson bores me with his 14 Points; why, God Almighty has only ten!" Lloyd George took great pleasure in Clemenceau's response to Wilson: "If the President took a flight beyond the azure main, as he was occasionally inclined to do without regard to relevance, Clemenceau would open his great eyes in twinkling wonder, and turn them on me as much as to say: 'Here he is off #bringbacktheGREATGERMIGhatwasCOMFORTABLEWITHHUIDIT'YsoSDYNEYSWBENEYdoesthattoTOTALBYHERSELfwhat happenedtoMUMBLECOREimeanBARBIEandnexttoLITTLEWOMEMwhatnext?STRAWBERRYSHORTCAKEandtheSMURF's #HUUUUUUIH!" #duh and of course, Kafka, or compute Kafka. But read this book.It's easy!!!And you'll be better OFF...Class dismissed!!!#naNovember 12, 2023Si no fos una obra exhaustivamente documentada, es podria pensar que estavem llegint una novel·la de terror.....Es repugnant adonar-se de la naci3 m3s poderosa del m3n, lider del "m3n lliure" ha estat (i esta) dirigida per presidents incompetents manipulats per una cohort d'assessors obsessi3ns amb paranoies i deliris de grandesa, nom3s preocupats per incrementar la despesa militar fins a l'infinit per defensar-se d'enemics que no existeixen o als que se'l3 presumeixen unes capacitats exagerades.El llibre exposa com des de finals del s. XIX, els EEUU van imposar la seva hegemonia basant-se en molts casos en mentides convenientment preparades (des de la Guerra contra Espanya fins a la invasi3 d'Iraq), aprofitant l' autodestructuraci3 d'Europa en les dues Guerres Mundials). Com van abusar (i abusen) de la seva superioritat militar, comportant-se com un abusador de nens petits qualsevol per tot el m3n.Es documenta com, en defensa dels seus interessos han recolzat dictadures sanguinaries, han aplastat governs elegits democr3ticament, i sobretot han causat dolor i patiment indescriptibles a milions de persones arreu del m3n.Tot aix3 amb un pressupost militar que no tenen rival en el m3n i que tenen capacitat per destruir el m3n i a tots els que hi vivim diverses vegades, mentre al seu propi pais la pobresa i la desigualtat no paren de creixer.Espero que al seu pais la gent llegeixi el llibre i obti els ulls all que s3n i al que van deixant pel m3n per obligar als seus governants a fer un canvi de rumb en benefici de tota la humanitat.June 28, 2019"Wow, so I read The Untold History of the United States over a four month period, reading a couple of pages every day. After spending so much time with the book, I've probably lost a good deal of objectivity in evaluating it, but here we are, anyway. If you expect this book to be impartial, look for another book. Just like the name suggests, The Untold History of the United States truly seeks to publicise elements of US history that are often overlooked. Stone and Kuznick really focus on the presidents from World War I onwards, and present both domestic and foreign policy for critique. The only president who really gets away unscathed is JFK. Even Obama's chapter (which focuses on his first term, given the book's 2012 publication) absolutely condemns many of his actions, which I personally hadn't expected. I can't really speak to the quality of research in this book, but Kuznick is an academic, so I suppose it has to be pretty good. Of course, it is all used in a very partial way, but Kuznick and Stone never pretend like impartiality was the goal. In highlighting the "untold history" of the US, the book was always necessarily going to be a critique of the US government and especially, US presidents. It doesn't try to balance the bad with the good any given president might have done, it just presents the bad as it was (and it could be pretty bad). Overall, I can't say that I loved spending four months reading The Untold History of the United States, but I definitely gained from it. Reading this alongside my studies in international relations and international security was very helpful and I certainly think I'll return to this for reference in the future. May 8, 2018Please note that this book is meant to be a companion to a documentary series of the same name which I haven't seen. I'm reviewing this book on its own merits, as a work of historical nonfiction and journalism.I have never seen a book that eviscerates and lays bare so many ugly scandals, secrets, and dirty dealings also manage to be so painfully fucking dull. I'd be impressed if I thought it was intentional.Oliver Stone's The Untold History of the United States is a work of historical nonfiction that purports to shine a light on the darkened corners of our nation's history and provide the reader with an unbiased and unflinching expose of information that those in power would prefer remain unspoken and unexamined. In this, it's moderately successful. The book could have been more appropriately titled The Untold History of the Presidency, since the central focus of every chapter is on the executive branch, and especially the actions of the executive branch as they relate to America's role in various theaters of warfare, from World War I through the Obama administration. So immediately, this book is a misnomer twice over: the "history" barely pays any attention to the 18th and 19th centuries, and it is less the history of the United States than of the presidency and United States imperialism.And let me just say, this book is comprehensive. Arguably to its own detriment. Stone has penned a massive tome that is overflowing with direct quotations, photographs, and letters, which is appropriate given its status as a companion piece to a documentary series. Unfortunately, a good deal of context is lost in the process of unpacking all this minutia. One walks away with the vague impression that all our presidents have been bastards for one reason or another and that America has been on a quest of imperialism that happily grinds the lives of non-Americans into grist for more than a century. One could refer to the book to come up with compelling evidence to support these assertions if prompted, but under the weight of this over 700 page news article, what's lost is a sense of gravity and context but I believe the authors could have easily achieved if they had made the effort. As it stands, the entire book feels a bit like listening to someone drone on about a negative experience with a mutual acquaintance and expecting you to share their outrage. There's nothing fundamentally wrong with that, but it would be more effective if the actual story was a bit more engaging, and if the call to action was clearer. But unfortunately the prose of this work is dense to the point of monotony, and the call to action - that is, the thing which the writer hopes that you will think, feel, or do after having read this work - is a wafer-thin afterthought. As a work, it seems to presuppose that aggravating your sense of outrage that these things happened at all will propel you to...I don't know, vote? Not vote? Riot? It isn't made very clear.Furthermore, for being "untold", much of the content in this book is fairly common knowledge to all but the rosiest, jingoistic patriots. Examples include the Gulf of Tonkin incident, the fact that Russia was overwhelmingly responsible for defeating the Nazis, the fact that most wars the United States has participated in have been acts of imperialistic resource grabbing, and that a handful of wealthy oligarchs continue to rig the game of politics in their favor so that they can never lose. There was a great deal within this book that I didn't know already, certainly, and it's far from useless, or even bad. It is, however, tremendously bloated, dull as dishwater, and sorely lacking in context that would have imparted upon this work some meaning greater than the sum of its parts, and something greater than the disquieting knowledge that the office of the presidency requires a great deal of unfortunate compromise, and that America has been ever concerned with extending its power and grasp via the use of the military-industrial complex. Since the average reader does not exert any influence over either of these institutions, both of which remain a continuous source of influence upon the lives of most citizens, the fact that this book basically ends nowhere is especially disappointing.I'd recommend this book if you're very keen to learn about American history, especially the history of the presidency and of America's wars from the perspective of somebody who is not an apologist for American imperialism. Read as a companion to Zinn's The People's History of the United States, I think this book could really shine as a way of showing the causal relationship between what those in power were thinking and feeling at various episodes in our nation's strained history, and then referring to Zinn to see how those policies actually unrolled on the ground. On its own, The Untold History of the United States is a frank and comprehensive exploration of American imperialism from the perspective of someone who is very critical (not undeservedly so) of American expansionist ideology. It's a dreadful shame that so salacious a subject should be given such a boring treatment.May 11, 2018I finally finished this monster! The documentary series was good. This is better.Howard Zinn's People's History of the United States is one of the most important books I've ever read. It opened my eyes to the mythologizing that frequently passes for US history. Another important book that built on those insights was Lies My Teacher Told Me by James W. Loewen, who noticed what sets American history class apart from the rest of an American's education. In chemistry you have a textbook called "Chemistry." In math you might have a textbook titled "Trigonometry" or "Calculus." In US history class you're likely to have a textbook called "Land of Promise," "Rise of the American Nation," or "The Great Republic." The myth-making starts right there on the cover of the book. The traditional story of American history is never a warts-and-all recounting of a checkered past. Most often American history is treated as a celebration and a triumph. Most often American history is a whitewash that reveals nothing.The Untold History of the United States by Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznik is a continuation of efforts by people like Zinn and Loewen. Stone and Kuznik try to build a counter-narrative that acts as a sort of antidote to the traditional History Channel version of American back-patting. Picking up around the turn of the 20th Century this book tells a winding tale of American imperialism and domination that is elided in the mainstream version of events. Heroes like Henry Wallace emerge and are sidelined at crucial moments. Prominent forks in the road that could have seriously changed the course of history are highlighted. This is a fascinating look both at what actually happened and what might have been if different choices were made.I learned a great deal of new information about World War II, the decision to drop the atomic bomb, the Vietnam War, and even modern history featuring the War on Terror and Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. I'm glad I put in the time to finish reading this book.Howard Zinn once said, "History is important. If you don't know history it is as if you were born yesterday. And if you were born yesterday, anybody up there in a position of power can tell you anything, and you have no way of checking up on it." It is important to know the true history of this country. You can't learn from the past if you don't know about the past. The American people are deliberately discouraged from learning the truth about what our government has done in our name because the people in power know we wouldn't like it. Read this book. Start learning the truth. Only when we know our true history can we begin to move in a new and better direction. Otherwise, as the old clich3 says, we are doomed to repeat it.May 22, 2013Премълчаваната история на САЩ или как бе съградена и приватизирана една империя: Фejзисюръф Оливър Стоун и историкът Питър Кузник (личното ми мнение 3, че това 3 основно книга на втория) се съсредоточават изцяло в XX и малко от началото на XXI век. Разказът тече леко, без да задълбава и се съсредоточава изключително във фактологичната страна на нещата, без наличие на сериозна анализа. Заложено 3 силно на обрисването на водещите исторически лица като хора - а портретите за някои са доста черни - освен вече споменатите Буш и Обама. Рейгън 3 изцялоос на много различен от популярния ми образ: като арогантен невежа, чиято войнствена риторика събужда позадрамялата налперера във възрастнаето. Любопитно 3 - и това 3 недостатък, - че съветските лидери са представени почти изключително в позитивна светлина, което ми 3 силно неразбираемо, историята не 3 черни и бяло, единте не са добри, другите лоши, но неясе. Огромната част от книгата 3 просто описание на събитията от американската история - възличането в двете световни войни, ползите, които бизнеспът има от тях, вътрешните вълнения (на Мартин Лутер Кинг и движението срещу сегрегацията не 3 обрънато точно никакво внимание) са малко по-негложирани, изключвам папифистките движения, пространно са описани множеството военни намеси в Централна и Южна Америка, забъркването във Виетнам и унизителното поражение, за да се стигне до Пустинна буря и 11 септември. Стоун и Кузник изцяло застават зад официалната версия за атенатитите, та не очаквайте да четете поредната конспирационна теория.Издачеството "Милениум" 5, 2019If this book has taught me one thing it is the lack of knowledge I have on America history. Or for that matter the history of the last 100 years. Based on this book the last good President was Franklin Roosevelt. All the rest have been captured by right wing zealots including Obama. If only Henry Wallace has still been the Vice President when Roosevelt died. Then the world would have been a better place. Instead since then all the Presidents have been captured by business and the wealthy. The scary thing is the insanity of building more nuclear weapons and they were considered for so many wars. Also how America due to its incredible badly informed policy decisions is now distrusted basically globally. Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, well just stick a pin in a map. The one hero that comes out of this book is Gorbachev. If only Reagan at the Iceland conference had accepted his plan. The book lacked a bit of detail on the Clinton presidency and others but overall was excellent. This analysis of the American Empire and its failure to live up to its own democratic ideals is an eye opener. April 22, 2013Wow. Some of this wasn't new to me, but having everything together under one cover makes it more overwhelming. Drags a bit in spots, but that's about par for the course for me with a history book. Certainly a different view of history than I remember getting in school. I did roll my eyes a bit at the photo of a young Oliver Stone in Vietnam. It seemed a bit gratuitously self-promotional, especially since the photo isn't referred to in the text. It appears in the chapter dealing with the Vietnam war but that's about its only relevance. The right wing will dispute this book, but many of them probably won't even read it in the first place given Stone's name on the cover and all,July 12, 2014A comprehensive and thoughtful primer on the massive stranglehold the military industrial complex has on our modern world. This isn't a book laden with conspiracy theories or secret uncovered documents -- this is all heavily foot-noted, backed up and triple checked history that brings the reader from the early 20th century all the way into the Obama era. But the revelations within the pages are startling nonetheless: the economics of war have been driving the machine and the sad truth is that the hawks don't need to mount a massive conspiracy because the majority just aren't paying attention. A good start to what's been really going on is reading this book. Displaying 1 - 30 of 308 reviewsGet help and learn more about the design.