

Yankee Steve's Column

for the Week of August 5, 2010

Howard Zinn and Rewriting History

George Orwell knew that Progressives, or those who want to lead us down the primrose path to Socialism/Communism, will have to rewrite history to get their hands on the future which is, of course, what they want to do. He said, **“Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.”**

Right now the present is in the hands of Progressives which can only mean that they will make the past say what they want it to say. That being the case we can expect that our history, the history of the noblest human experiment, will undergo a rewrite. So what else is new?

Revisionists have discovered that there is more than one way to skin a cat. The Communist Howard Zinn [1922-January 27, 2010], whose book *A People's History of the United States: 1492 - Present* (revised 2003) has been spoon fed to students for an entire generation, rewrote history by using a technique common to liars. It brings to mind a comment made by novelist Robert Louis Stevenson: “The greatest lies are told in silence.” Keep reading and you will see what I mean.

I do not hesitate to call Zinn a liar because I know that he was a member of the Communist Party USA which uses lying in the way carpenters use hammers; and that he did in fact lie about his Party membership when he was investigated by the FBI. Just this past week Trevor Loudon of NoisyRoom.net made this public. Mr. Loudon relied on the Freedom of Information Act which forced the FBI to publish their files on Zinn. Thank you Mr. Loudon you are a faithful sentinel; you have proven that my own criticisms of Zinn which I put into print about a year ago were fully justified. However Loudon has gone further than I have. He has connected Zinn to the same radicals that from day one have encircled now President Barack Obama.

Zinn's approach to rewriting history would not fool an adult, but it could fool a child, for example the actor Matt Damon. Damon began reading Zinn when he was only ten years of age. At that age Damon would not have known that Zinn used history which is not the same as saying that he interpreted history.

Damon's work intended to authenticate Zinn's work indicates that he is still a kid, and that he has not heard from the apostle Paul who wrote, “. . . when I grew up I put away childish things.” [1 Corinthians 13:11] Maybe Damon is doing this out of nostalgia because he lived in Boston where for 24 years Zinn pabulum-fed his anti-authoritarian Marxism to students at Boston University.

It is high time that Damon and his Hollywood friends put away childish utopian/progressivism, if for no other reason than it puts you in the company of men like Zinn, a favorite with National Public Broadcasting.

The How of Zinn

How did Zinn lie when rewriting history? It is simple enough to explain so that even a movie star could understand.

All Zinn had to do is omit from his books and papers certain facts, and by so doing he was able to rewrite history. The key word is “omission.” This is what the Muslims do when they passover the facts about their prophet Mohammed.

What if someone (let’s say a student in an elementary school in Japan) is given a book to read which among other things covers that incredible moment in history when brave Americans stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima; and suppose this same student’s book is not copyrighted about 1955 after the Second World War ended, but 300 years from now about 2310.

With so much distance between the events dealing with the American invasion of Iwo Jima and the young student’s having to wrestle with many other subjects which he is studying at that time, it will be easy to fool him into thinking that America and not Japan had been the aggressor. Of course this hoodwinking of the impressionable student is all the more likely because he is Japanese. Naturally he will want to look at history through prejudiced eyes. In a similar way Damon and others are susceptible to Zinn-ism because they like their beloved “historian” believe that America is ruthless. Any of the films they turn out about WW2, e.g., Damon in *Saving Private Ryan*, likely are more to line their pockets than because they are patriotic

Back in Japan the author of the book has the student in his grip. With a turn of the wrist he can give the impression that America initiated the war with Japan. All he has to do is omit the fact that the Empire of Japan launched what FDR called a “dastardly and unprovoked attack” on Pearl Harbor. This is how Zinn worked - he told you only what he wanted. Shame on Boston U for allowing a madman who said America planned 9/11 to teach there. How does one deal with a man who said things like that or with those who knowing the truth about Zinn continue to sell his books? It must be that they are Communists, too.

What else did Zinn do? He liked to make inferences that do not need supporting data. Inferences can go a long way. He spoke of American presidents in the same context as he did the Hitlers and the Mussolinis of the world. Immediately the credulous student draws an inference - Uncle Sam is a home-grown version of a Gestapo police chief.

The Why of Zinn

Why does Zinn lie when rewriting history? The reason is apparent. He hates America just like many in Hollywood do; Ben Stein reports the town is loaded with Communists.

“Nothing” Napoleon said, “is quite as obstinate as a fact.” It is those pesky facts that Zinn found so obstinate; as a result he left many of them out of his book.

Instead of buying Zinn’s pseudo-history, do what my wife did. At a conference last year she bought Michael Medved’s book, *The 10 Big Lies about America: Combating Destructive Distortions about Our Nation*. It is a better read and much closer to the truth.

Ever yours,

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