

“I WANT TO SAY JUST ONE LITTLE THING ABOUT the Civil War. The Civil War is again one of our ‘good wars’ — the slaves were freed in the course of it — but it is not that simple. There is the class element of who was drafted and who was not drafted; who made huge amounts of money off the Civil War, and the paying of substitutes; and what happened to the Indians. When you see documentaries of the Civil War, what you see mostly are battle scenes. You see Gettysburg and Fredericksburg and Bull Run. When I run into someone, they often say, ‘Oh, you’re a historian. I am very interested in the Civil war.’ And they proceed to tell you about the Battle of Fredericksburg, since that’s what they see as the Civil War: the battles. Or black people being freed. But there’s another angle to it — just an element to it that at least complicates the picture. In the midst of the Civil War, while the Union armies are fighting in the South, there’s another part of the Union army that is out West, destroying Indian settlements and taking over Indian land. In 1864, not long after the Emancipation Proclamation, the American army is out in Colorado attacking an Indian village, killing hundreds of men, women, and children at Sand Creek, Colorado, in one of the worst Indian massacres in American history. This massacre occurred during the war for freedom. In the years of the Civil War, more land was taken away from the Indians than in any other comparable period in history. There’s a lot of historical work to be done, a lot of films that need to be made.

“If such films are made and reach the public, about war, class conflict, and who controls what; and about the history of governmental lies, broken treaties, and official violence; if those stories are told, we might really produce a new generation. As a teacher and a writer, that’s what I’m interested in. I’m not interested in just producing books, and I’m not interested in just reproducing class after class of people who will get out, become successful, and take their obedient places in the slots that society has prepared for them. What most of us must be involved in — whether we teach or write, make films, write films, direct films, play music, act, whatever we do — has to not only make people feel good and inspired and at one with other people around them, but also has to educate a new generation to do this very modest thing: change the world.”

— from ‘Stories Hollywood Never Tells,’ a talk given at the Taos Film Festival in April 1999, in *Artists in Times of War*, Seven Stories Press, 2003

*HOWARD ZINN grew up in a working-class family in Brooklyn, NY where he became a shipyard laborer and later, in WWII, an Air Force bombardier. After the war, he attended Columbia University under the GI Bill and earned his Ph.D in history. He has taught at Spelman College in Atlanta and later at Boston University. He has also been a history fellow at Harvard and a visiting professor at the University of Paris and the University of Bologna. Professor Zinn has won numerous awards and honors including The Eugene V. Debs Award, The Upton Sinclair Award and The Lannan Literary Award. In a career that has spanned over forty years, Howard Zinn, as a professor, radical historian, progressive political theorist, social activist, playwright, and author, has brought a fresh, thoughtful, and humane approach to the study and teaching of history. Among his books and plays are **La Guardia in Congress, Disobedience and Democracy, The Politics of History, The Pentagon Papers: Critical Essays, Declarations of Independence: Cross-Examining American Ideology, You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train** (his autobiography), **The Zinn Reader, Marx in Soho** and the highly celebrated **A People’s History of the United States**. He lives with his wife, Roslyn, in Auburndale, Massachusetts.*

“IT’S AN INTERESTING QUESTION of how myths are propagated and remain very large in the American consciousness. I think it has to do with the power of the government and of a complicit media to maintain these myths. That is, the government persists in saying something and if the government dominates the air waves as it always does — it’s governmental figures that dominate television and screens and even on Public television, the people you see most often are White House officials and former White House officials and so the power of the government to maintain a myth is enormous. When the media don’t counter, don’t play the role of a really critical, scrutinizing journalism, then those myths will be perpetuated. What accounts for the fact that most Americans believe that the Saddam Hussein had something to do with 9/11, when there is no evidence for it?”

— from a 2003 interview by Robert Birnbaum at <http://www.identitytheory.com/interviews/birnbaum97.html>

“THE LIST OF BETRAYALS IS LONG. This government has betrayed the hopes of the world for peace. After fifty million died in the Second World War, the United Nations was set up, as its charter promised, ‘to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.’

“The people of the United States have been betrayed, because with the Cold War over and ‘the threat of communism’ no longer able to justify the stealing of trillions of the public’s tax dollars for the military budget, that theft of the national wealth continues. It continues at the expense of the sick, the children, the elderly, the homeless, the unemployed, wiping out the expectations after the fall of the Soviet Union that there would be a ‘peace dividend’ to bring prosperity to all.

“And yes, we come back to the ultimate betrayal, the betrayal of the young, sent to war with grandiose promises and lying words about freedom and democracy, about duty and patriotism. We are not historically literate enough to remember that these promises, those lies, started far back in the country’s past.”

from an article at <http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0219-05.htm>, originally published in *The Progressive*, April 2004.

The Pat Farren Fund for Peacework was established in 1998 to honor the memory of Pat Farren, the Magazine’s founding editor. The son of members of the Rochester, N.Y. Catholic Worker Movement, Pat began his career as an activist with an eye-opening teaching stint with the Peace Corps. He turned his 1968 trial for resisting the draft into an educational opportunity, drawing hundreds to the courtroom. Throughout his life, he put his beliefs into practice, writing and organizing for peace and justice, and standing in sustained opposition to racism, militarism, and imperialism. Pat believed in the written word as a tool for social change and served the American Friends Service Committee for 25 years as editor of Peacework where he practiced what he liked to call “empowerment journalism.”

The Pat Farren Memorial Lecture is an annual event which each year features a different activist whose medium, like Pat’s, is words. Proceeds from the Lectures are used to honor Pat’s wish that Peacework continue to serve as a catalyst for social transformation.

The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that includes people of many faiths committed to social justice, peace, & humanitarian service. Its work is based on Friends’ belief in the worth of every person and their faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.



With gratitude to...

“Class is just not addressed in the United States. The pretense is that we’re all one big, happy family. The government uses language about representing ‘the national interest.’ This assumes that we all have the same interests: you know, that Exxon and I have the same priorities, or that the government and I have the same desire to go to war. I’m suspicious of terms like ‘national security’ or ‘national defense,’ which try to envelop the whole population within one common position which doesn’t really exist.”

— from a 2002 interview
by Ian Svenonius at
[indexmagazine.com/
interviews/howard_zinn.
shtml](http://indexmagazine.com/interviews/howard_zinn.shtml)

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