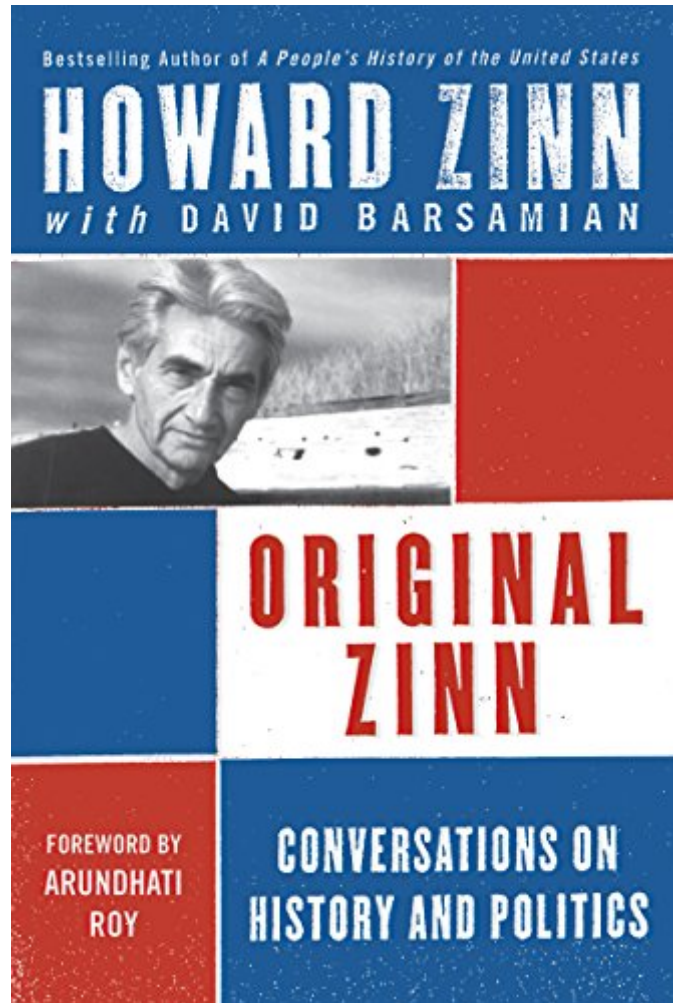


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# Original Zinn: Conversations With David Barsamian



## Synopsis

Historian, activist, and bestselling author Howard Zinn has been interviewed by David Barsamian for public radio numerous times over the past decade. Original Zinn is a collection of their conversations, showcasing the acclaimed author of *A People's History of the United States* at his most engaging and provocative. Touching on such diverse topics as the American war machine, civil disobedience, the importance of memory and remembering history, and the role of artistsâfrom Langston Hughes to Dalton Trumbo to Bob Dylanâin relation to social change, *Original Zinn* is Zinn at his irrepresible best, the acute perception of a scholar whose impressive knowledge and probing intellect make history immediate and relevant for us all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Howard Zinn not only makes history worth reading - he makes history. Historian, political activist, octogenarian and bestselling author of *A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES*, he has been interviewed by Alternative Radio's David Barsamian ([alternativeradio.org](http://alternativeradio.org)) a number of times over the past decade; and this latest publication is a collection of eight radio interviews between

2002 and 2005, showcasing Zinn's current thought on such issues as the bombing of Afghanistan, the occupation of Iraq, the so-called War on Terror, civil liberties, militarism, modern warfare, imperialism, economic inequality, privatization and, of course, the role of civil disobedience in an undemocratic society. Although, in the words of some critics, Barsamian merely asks 'softball questions,' this book is clearly not aiming to persuade or cajole the reader. Rather, the format is more like one of F.D.R.'s fireside chats, or a friendly dialogue between Socrates and Crito. However, these are not mere theoretical musing. After his experience as a W.W.II bombardier, Zinn has led an active career striving to bring about real, concrete social change as a teacher, veteran of the Civil Rights Movement and peace advocate. Zinn enthusiasts will find much originality in this book, up to and including the speech he gave at Spelman College in 2005, forty-two years after being fired for "insubordination." Zinn newcomers, on the other hand, might want to Start with A PEOPLE'S HISTORY in order to lay groundwork for much of the historical material discussed in this volume. Whatever you start with, though, you should definitely start. Nothing this man has touched should go unread.

Original Zinn  
With David Barsamian  
Book Review  
By Richard E. Noble  
This is another book of interviews and conversations. David Barsamian, founder and director of the syndicated program "Alternative Radio" asks the questions. If you are like me and have read a few books by Howard Zinn you may have the tendency to dismiss this book as more of the same old same old. But Howard Zinn is a wealth of historical and political information. I think he could be asked the same question ten times and each time come up with an answer containing fresh insights that he had not spoken of in previous answers. I have read enough by Howard Zinn that I think I can honestly say that I know where he is coming from. But knowing where he is coming from does not leave me knowledgeable of all Howard Zinn has read or experienced. He is always a fascinating read. I am not ready to dismiss any of his books on the grounds that I have heard all this before. He is a fascinating individual and he comes to the page well armed with wit and wisdom and a million personal experiences. The man must have read a million books and he can tell you a little something about most of them. He's a thinker, an anti-militarist, an anti-war advocate, an historian, a social activist, an American dissident, a college professor, and a writer. His books are all worth reading. I think I've read four of his works thus far. I have a pile more to consider. I have no fear. I will be ordering more. Howard Zinn was a very interesting writer. He was very personable. I am saddened by his loss. But we still have his thoughts and ideas and lots of his books to read. The Hobo Philosopher, Richard Edward Noble is a writer and the author of "America On Strike."

This was an interesting read from a man who knows his history and politics. I especially love his opinions on war and he seems to always back his arguments up with solid reasoning. If you really want to be blown away, read *The People's History of the United States*.

The truth bared. Insightful and compelling. The ego-power-elite will be given a reality check if ever they could actually bring themselves to read this and now you will understand many of the causes and elements of social change.

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