SIMPLE HISTORY SERIES: Set One: Hawaii, Congo, Crusades, Cold War, Christopher Columbus, Nez Perce Indians, and Spanish Civil War by JOHN GERLACH

These pamphlets present summaries of historical events that can be digested, understood, and contemplated over the period of a few hours. Unlike other historical accounts trying to prove a point or contextualize current events, this series attempts to recount historical events with as little bias as possible.

“Reads alternately like a textbook and a children’s illustrated history. Gerlach accomplishes this feat by widely varying the ratios of words to pictures. On some pages, a small rectangle of text acts as a caption for an accompanying illustration; elsewhere, words dominate an entire page. What’s consistent throughout is that the zine does not suppress the gory details of Columbus’ romps to the New World. For instance, illustrator Cindy Crabb’s depictions of stick-figure corpses being dumped overboard are somewhat wrenching: They’re the bodies of would-be slaves. Nevertheless, with its bibliography full of Howard Zinn and James W. Loewen, [this is] a digestible version of a narrative that is not as familiar as it should be.” —Utne Reader

Included in this seven-zine, 336-page, sleeve-bound boxset is Simple History author J. Gerlach’s Hawaii (1778-1959) From Western Discovery to Statehood, The Congo, Crusades: Christian Attempts to Liberate the Holy Land (1095-1229), Christopher Columbus and His Expeditions to America, The Cold War, Nez Perce Indians, and Spanish Civil War. The Simple History zine series is an ongoing attempt to bring unrecognized or otherwise mis-told histories to a modern audience of all ages. By presenting its facts objectively, Simple History’s goal is to share history without marring the facts by editorializing. Look for more of Gerlach’s Simple History titles in the near future.

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Price: $19.95 U.S.

Comparable/Competitive Titles:
People’s History of the United States 9780061965586 (Harper Perrenial) $25.00, 2010
Lies My Teacher Told Me 9780743296281 (Touchstone) $16.99, 2007
Celebrate People’s History 9781558616776 (The Feminist Press) $24.95, 2010

Benefits
1: An objective and clear understanding of historical events.
2: Interesting storytelling that is free of judgment or bias.
3: Easily digestible parcels present a newfound excitement around historical events.

J Gerlach is a longtime independent researcher and zine writer from Minneapolis. His teaching interests and aspirations have been replaced by publishing researching and writing this series.

Microcosm Publishing strives to add credibility to zine writers and their ethics, teach self empowerment, show hidden history, and nurture people’s creative side! Now based in Lansing, KS and Portland, OR, Joe Biel started the distro and then-record-label out of his bedroom in 1996. Since then we’ve grown to become one of the largest zine distributors in the world, reaching an international audience through our website and retail store.