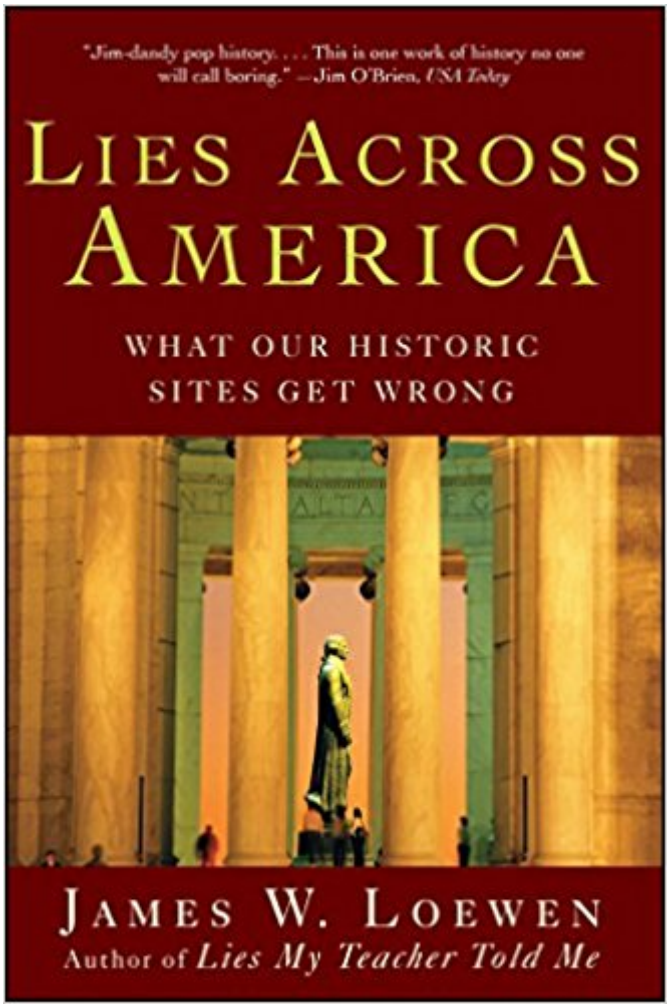
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Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong



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Synopsis

From the author of the national bestseller >, the second myth-busting history book which focuses on the inaccuracies, myths, and lies that can be found at national landmarks and historical sites all across America.In Lies Across America, James W. Loewen continues his mission, begun in the award-winning Lies My Teacher Told Me, of overturning the myths and misinformation that too often pass for American history. This is a one-of-a-kind examination of sites all over the country where history is literally written on the landscape, including historical markers, monuments, historic houses, forts, and ships. With entries drawn from each of the fifty states, Loewen reveals that: The USS Intrepid, the Ã¢â ¬Å“feel-goodÃ¢â ¬Â• war museum, celebrates its glorious service in World War II but nowhere mentions the three tours it served in Vietnam. The Jefferson Memorial misquotes from the Declaration of Independence and skews JeffersonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s writings to present this conflicted slave owner as a near abolitionist. Abraham Lincoln had been dead for thirty years when his birthplace cabin was built.Lies Across America is a reality check for anyone who has ever sought to learn about America through the nationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s public sites and markers. Entertaining and enlightening, it is destined to change the way American readers see their country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Little seems to delight historian James W. Loewen, author of Lies My Teacher Told Me, more than picking apart the cherished myths of American history. Few Americans study history after high school--instead, Loewen writes, they turn to novels and Oliver Stone movies to learn about the past.

And they turn to the landscape, to roadside historical markers, guidebooks, museums, and tours of battlefields, childhood homes, and massacre sites. If you were to trust those sources, Loewen suggests, you would learn, erroneously, that the first airplane flight took place not at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, but at Pittsburg, Texas. "It must be true--an impressive-looking Texas state historical marker says so!" Loewen chortles. In these entertaining pages, Loewen takes a region-by-region tour of the United States, pointing out historical oddments as he travels. For example, a massacre of white pioneers by Indians commemorated in Almo, Idaho, never took place, Loewen continues; neither did many other such events. Indeed, he insists, "throughout the entire West between 1842 and 1859, of more than 400,000 pioneers crossing the plains, fewer than 400, or less than .1 percent, were killed by American Indians." And if you were to visit Helen Keller's Georgia birthplace, over which a Confederate flag flies, you would get the impression that Keller had been an unreconstructed daughter of the Old South, whereas she was in fact an early supporter of the NAACP. And so on. After finishing Loewen's alternately angry and bemused exposÃƒÂ©, readers will likely never trust a roadside historical marker or tour guide again--which may prompt them to turn to history books to check things out for themselves. As well they should. --Gregory McNamee --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A Confederate war memorial in Helena, MT? America's most toppled monument? These are only a couple of the things Loewen discovers during his travels around this highly monumented country. This book takes an often amusing look at the strange and sometimes sinister motivation behind the creation of many of America's historic sites. Good questions to ask when seeing something as simple as a roadside plaque or as complex as Mark Twain's home town are "Who made this?," "When?," and especially "Why?" The answers often reveal attempts to misinform or push certain cultural or political agendas. As the title implies, Loewen (Lies My Teacher Told Me, The Truth About Columbus) views official history with a certain skepticism that can be entertaining. Recommended for public libraries.AJoseph Toschik, Half Moon Bay P.L., CA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fascinating, well documented, and written for wide audiences. I plan to use this as part of a public writing class, as students in my other writing classes have found this topic fascinating in the past.

This book gives fascinating insight into the past by reminding us that history is only as valid as the reporters and documentarians who keep accounts of it for us. We are doomed to repeat history if we

don’t know the truth about what happened and make changes to prevent future mistakes and injustices! I’ll continue to love historic sites and monuments, but I’ll do my own research and draw my own conclusions from now on, rather than following blindly what has been repeated with no validation.

Another great addititon to my teacher library from James Loewen. If you enjoyed Lies My Teacher Told Me, you will enjoy Lies Across America. It is facinating how much misinformation is being presented across our country as fact. Loewen selects a number of "Historical" sites starting on the West coast and works East uncovering the lies that are being told about our past. A sure way to gather your own crowd when you go on vacation.

As promised and quick delivery.

This book does a great job of discussing some of monument and memorials in America that probably should be destroyed. I think it was a pretty thought provoking read. I had to read it for a Sociology class, but I definitely recommend it for anyone.

Great book. Makes me really think about historical sites and how who erects and pays for monuments and markers influences what they say or how they say it. His other books are good too.

Amazing read

What I was looking for. Great information.

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