

Dr. James Loewen, "The average American History textbook weighs 4.5 pounds - is 888 pages long - and contains page after page of misinformation that is tainting the education of American children every day. So how can teachers give children a comprehensive and accurate history of America?" [Creative Commons Attribution license \(reuse allowed\)](#)

Conversations with Great Minds - Dr. James Loewen - Lies My Teacher Told Me

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaotbAYulLo> [2012 (14 mins)]

Loewen wrote "Lies My Teacher Told Me," "Lies across America" and several other books challenging white supremacy in history textbooks and the general teaching of American history. We are not "teaching what really happened." And, says Loewen, "We have a tendency in history to deify or villainize." Among other positions he takes, Loewen describes that the US is especially prone to push ethno-centrism because of our strengths militarily and economically.

Why Everything You Think You Know About Lincoln is Wrong

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5AUVmrjbDs> [April, 2015 (11 mins)]

Loewen, who has examined history textbooks and US teaching, offers examples of how the trends in teaching have reflected and reinforced institutional racism. The title of the interview comes from our lack of understanding of Lincoln's motives in the Civil War, and what gets left out or preserved in his speeches and writing in order to reinforce a pre-determined narrative. Loewen also offers that we no longer need textbooks. With the internet and other access, we can now have myriad sources to reflect diverse perspectives and inspire thinking and come closer to historical debate and truth.

Additional Resources:

The War Over Teaching America's Racist History in Schools | The Daily Show Trevor Noah
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQKRYJnqlDM [May 5, 2021 (10 mins)]

<https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/pledge-to-teach-truth>

For an example of Loewen's point, read: Rick Santorum Said America Came 'From Nothing.' He's Part of a Long History of Indigenous Erasure That Plays Out in Art and Life
<https://news.artnet.com/opinion/rick-santorum-indigenous-erasure-op-ed-1963111/amp-page>, and
'Rick Santorum and his critics are both wrong about Native American history'
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/04/29/rick-santorum-his-critics-are-both-wrong-about-native-american-history/>