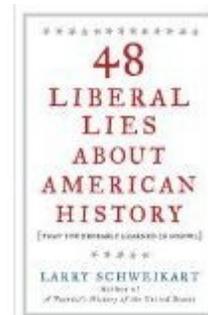


48 Liberal Lies about American History

(That You Probably Learned in School)

2008 By Larry Schweikart

Sentinel (Published by the Penguin Group), New York, NY, HC, 300
pgs.



For those of you who may be thinking I'm going to go off on a conservative rant, you'd be mistaken. Yes, I'm conservative, and yes, the title of this book is provocative, but I offer this review of *48 Liberal Lies about American History* because of what this book teaches.

The author, Professor Larry Schweikart, is a professor of history at the University of Dayton, a liberal institution to be sure. In fact, he credits the university for its open-minded tolerance of his extra-curricular activities. He has written more than twenty other books on national defense, business, and financial history. Among them are *A Patriot's History of the United States* (which he co-authored with Mike Allen) and *America's Victories*.

When I was a kid in school, I *hated* history. What I didn't learn until much later was that I was getting the "Bowdlerized" version. The term comes from Thomas Bowdler (1754-1825), who wrote an expurgated version of Shakespeare and Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Why? Because he felt the originals were inappropriate for women and children! When I began reading authors of history on my own, I learned entirely different things and it ignited a love of history that remains with me to this day.

However, when one reads various authors of historical textbooks today, especially about this country, one often gets a distorted picture of its history. I took this excerpt from the *48 Liberal Lies about American History's* dustcover flap. "*The problem isn't that liberal authors present their opinions or interpretations of history from an obvious left-wing bias. The problem is authors who actually distort facts and manipulate data in an effort to appear objective and unbiased.*"

Professor Schweikart then goes on to debunk much of the misinformation out there in today's textbooks. He quotes from the sources, by name, and presents facts to the contrary. His style is readable and his research impeccable. Does he write from a conservative slant? Yes. Does he try to cover up the actual facts of history, be they positive *or* negative? No. Along the way, professor Schweikart writes in a lively, non-professorial style that's easy to follow.

What did I take away from reading *48 Liberal Lies about American History*? I was amazed at what I mistakenly believed about so-called "historical facts" I had gleaned over the years. They ranged from learning that the much-maligned John D. Rockefeller, far from being the rapacious robber-baron (an oft-used canard promulgated against just about all of the great businessmen of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries) of Standard Oil, was instead an exceedingly generous philanthropist; to the fact that Coca Cola wasn't the highly addictive, cocaine-laced product some have averred (yes, it contained cocaine, but the drug had been denatured to the point of having no effect at all). The book is chock-full of facts like these.

Does Professor Schweikart take an ax to liberals and liberal thought? No, but he debunks much of the disinformation being disseminated in our schools and college campuses. Read *48 Liberal Lies about American History*, not to have your conservative credentials confirmed, but to learn things you only partly, or incorrectly, believed about the history of this country. Was/is America perfect? Of course not. Was/is America some imperialistic, hate-driven colossus, standing astride the world, picking off lesser countries with gleeful abandon? You be the judge,

when you read this informative, stringently documented book. Liberal, or conservative, your perceptions will be changed if you read it with an open mind.