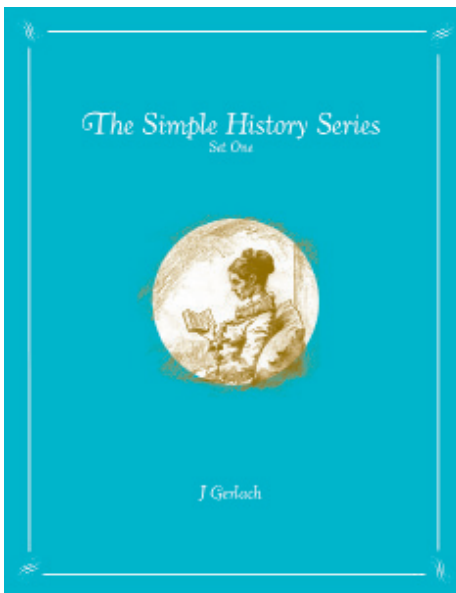


SIMPLE HISTORY SERIES: THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

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*



Rather than condemning the planning and development of the Interstate Highway System, J. Gerlach’s Simple History Series continues to objectively look at the historical events, military concerns, and governmental priorities that led to its development.

Gerlach investigates the opportunity costs and the citizen groups who fought construction and changes to their neighborhoods throughout the last one hundred years. Given the interstates’ ability to divide neighborhoods, make poor citizens poorer, and induce demand—the more highways you build, the more people use them, and the slower everyone moves—Gerlach also embraces the American romanticism with driving on the Interstates and how it relates to his own history.

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Format: 4.25 x 5.5”, 42 Pages
Subjects: History / Cultural Studies
Price: \$4.00 U.S.



Comparable/Competitive Titles:

People’s History of the United States 9780061965586 (Harper Perennial) \$25.00, 2010
Lies My Teacher Told Me 9780743296281 (Touchstone) \$16.99, 2007
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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 is one of the most charming and adorable publishing houses in the U.S. Microcosm Publishing was founded in 1996 and over the years has developed a reputation for teaching self-empowerment, showing hidden histories, and fostering creativity. The then-distro and record-label was started by Joe Biel in his bedroom and is now based in Portland, OR, with books and bookettes about DIY skills, food, zines, and art. As a commitment to our ethics, our books are printed by union workers in the U.S. and we are moving towards all production using post-consumer papers, with vegan inks and bindings.

“Each edition chronicles a decisive moment or movement in world history, condensing a story to the 50-page chapbook format. These books provide an insightful and informative antidote to the bulky historical tome usually found at schools or libraries.” —*Alarm Magazine*

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