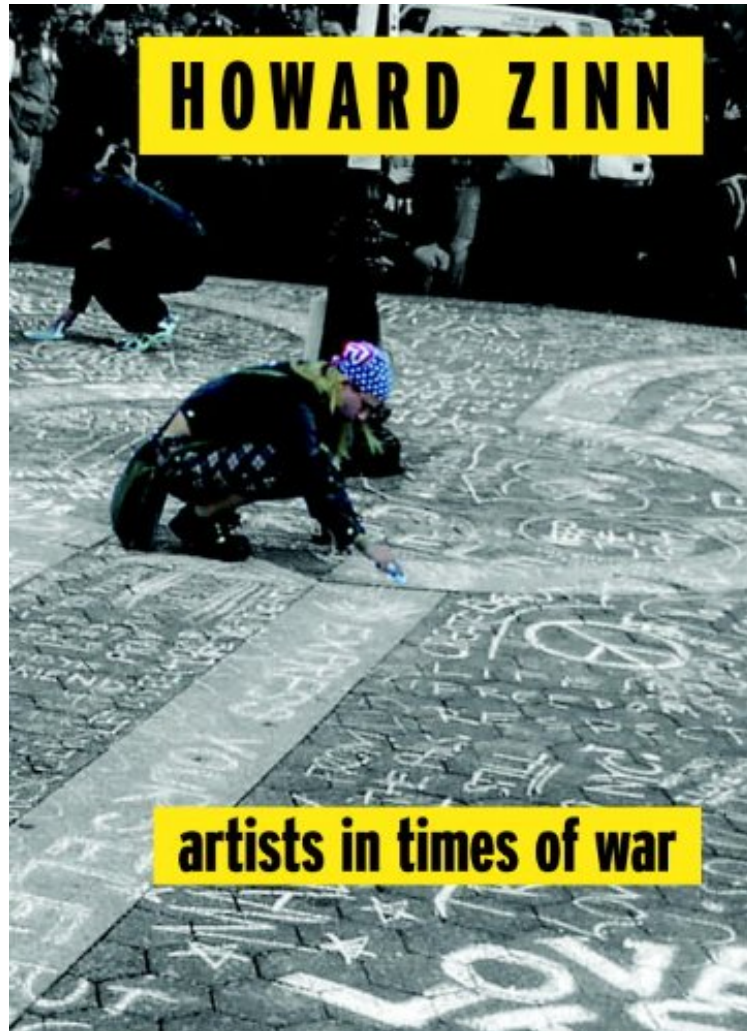


Artists in Times of War (Open Media Series)

Howard Zinn

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Howard Zinn : Artists in Times of War (Open Media Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Artists in Times of War (Open Media Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Edward Romero Every artist should own it. Period. 11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating read in the wake of Fahrenheit 9/11. By waiting to derail This slim volume (I read it in an hour) by famous (or infamous, depending on your point of view) revisionist historian Zinn is direct and to the point: "It is the job of the artist...to think outside the boundaries of permissible thought and dare to say things that no one else will say." Of course, what Zinn thinks that artists should be saying is to speak out against war in ways that traditional journalists do not, CAN not. He cites Catch-22 by Joseph Heller as a case in point: "If, right after World War II, someone had written a nonfiction book on the ambiguities of war and the atrocities committed by the supposed good guys...such a book would have been difficult to publish."

But...artists can be sly. They can point to things that take you outside traditional thinking because you can get away with it in fiction."This makes me think of the movie Fahrenheit 9/11 and how remarkable it is that Michael Moore has broken through that wall to bring forth a nonfiction artistic statement about the current administration and war. I think Zinn would be pleased. Now if only someone would make some of the movies he suggests in this book (the story of Emma Goldman, the Ludlow Massacre, the Phillipine-American war to name a few).14 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Zinn Calls Us to Wake Up!By A CustomerWhere is our public debate about excesses of government? If the radical perspective in national affairs continues to be hidden, what then? Zinn deserves prizes and accolades for bringing the radical perspective to the fore in this book at this urgent time. Like sheep, our nation wanders, but nonetheless follows the well-oiled public relations machine of our American president who spins and grins his way into the projection of power that is his prime directive.Zinn provides a very different, critically important lens through which we might view life in these United States and our impact beyond our shores. He calls for the artist in each of us to be voice of those who are "collateral damage," left behind or otherwise choose peace, while the genius-not at the helm chooses war.He speaks to the impact of the US rushing pell-mell into the maelstrom of a consumerism that transforms our nation-state into a market-state with increasingly more losers and fewer winners, and a state of public affairs and policy determined by a smaller and smaller group of corporate and business imperatives in a global Realpolitik.Zinn gives us a strong reminder of that separate, but critically important reality of everywoman and -man that is more arresting than the cable that brought W's plane to an abrupt stop on the carrier.Had enough? Read this book and get active! Or, at the very least, let Howard remind you in his ever-passionate way that governments always lie.

"Political power," says Howard Zinn, "is controlled by the corporate elite, and the arts are the locale for a kind of guerilla warfare in the sense that guerillas look for apertures and opportunities where they can have an effect." In Artists in Times of War, Zinn looks at the possibilities to create such apertures through art, film, activism, publishing and through our everyday lives. In this collection of four essays, the author of A People's History of the United States writes about why "To criticize the government is the highest act of patriotism." Filled with quotes and examples from the likes of Bob Dylan, Mark Twain, e. e. cummings, Thomas Paine, Joseph Heller, and Emma Goldman, Zinn's essays discuss America's rich cultural counternarratives to war, so needed in these days of unchallenged U.S. militarism.

About the AuthorHOWARD ZINN's (1922ndash;2010) great subject isn't war, but peace. After his experience as a bombardier in World War II, he became convinced that there could be no such thing as a "just war," as the vast majority of modern warfarer's victims are made up of innocent civilians. In his books, including A People's History of the United States and its companion volume, Voices of a People's History of the United States, Zinn affirms the power of the masses to influence major events. Through a lifetime of pointed scholarship and principled civil disobedience, he has led and continues to lead generations in the ways of peace.