**Additional Readers’ Responses to *Lies My Teacher Told Me***

"I am a 14‑year‑old in the small town of Mount Vernon, SD. Going into the 9th grade, I have read both Lies My Teacher Told Me and Lies Across America. These are EXCELLENT books! After reading them, I spread them around the school to different teachers. All were shocked and, due to this, are changing their teaching methods. They are reading what is in the textbooks and then reviewing them with the information from your books to show classes the truth in history. We are all glad that you shared this information with the world." — Andrew Frank, May 2001.

"I have ... actually forced all of my friends and family at gunpoint to read [Lies], as well, and every one of them has done the same to their friends and family in turn (so I sincerely hope your living room is 'feng shei' by now)." — Robert Reames, June, 2001.

"... Your book taught me more about American history then any of the years I've spent in the public education system." -- Nancy Ng, student, SUNY‑Albany, 7/2001.

"I want to thank you so much for your book Lies My Teacher Told Me.... It stimulated my brain.... wonderful, liberating, although painful, knowledge.

One of the values I did keep from my childhood... is 'Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'. Your book made me more free and still better opened the door to greater freedom. And it reinforced a basic belief in right and wrong ‑ not the simplistic variety, but the belief that requires continually reworking of our lives, growing, understanding, and going forward." — Lynn Lindstrom, Paris, France, email, 8/2001.

"I've just started reading your book, Lies My Teacher Told Me after having it strongly recommended by my sister, and it has forced me to challenge and review all the (mis)conceptions I had regarding history." — Mike Lee, email, 7/19/2001.

"I'd like to second Prof. Bryant's recommendation of James Loewen's LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME, which does a masterful job of puncturing the myths about Reconstruction as an era of corrupt "Negro rule," while providing lots of specifics about the positive accomplishments of that era. For those who haven't read the book, the key chapter is the one on "the invisibility of anti‑racism" in high‑school history textbooks. I'm actually using Loewen's book as a supplementary text this semester in two different college courses (American Economic History Before 1900, Introduction to Social Science)." — Prof. Ranjit Dighe, Economics, SUNY‑Oswego, 10/2001.

"I'm a 10th grade student from Iowa and am currently reading your book Lies My Teacher Told Me. First of all, thanks for writing such a great book. Secondly, I think I should mention that things really haven't gotten too much better with my history classes...." — Derek Lau, 10/2001.

"I have used [Lies My Teacher Told Me] every time I have taught [introductory sociology], which is just about every semester. The book is so well written, so well argued that students not only get interested because they get provoked by the iconoclastic, critical stance, but just as importantly, reading your book is the first time many of them have followed a sustained argument." — Stephen Adair, Sociology, Central Connecticut State University, 9/2001.

"I loan [Lies Across America and Lies My Teacher Told Me] out to people all the time." — Jesse Carr, undergraduate, Oberlin College, 10/2001.

"I am an undergraduate freshman attending the University of Iowa. I recently read your book Lies My Teacher Told Me and was deeply moved. A grave injustice is being committed on the students of this country, and I am grateful for you to take the time and energy to bring this to light.... P.S. Up until recent I had found myself having a very difficult time in choosing a direction for my studies ... but thanks to you, I will be changing my major to History. And I hope someday to be teaching an entire different brand of American History to High School students somewhere." — S. Talbot, stalbot@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu 11/29/01.

"I must thank you for Lies My Teacher Told Me.... I can hardly put the book down long enough to go to work every day! I'm tempted to buy a copy for all the high school history teachers I had." — Amy L. Proietti, SIS Applications Specialist, UMass Amherst, aproiett@gw.housing.umass.edu, 11/16/2001

"You've never HEARD of Michael Parenti? Noam Chomsky is too DEEP for you? Howard Zinn's People's History Of The United States is not in your town library? FEAR NOT! With interlibrary loan, you can read ANY of the books written by ALL of the preceding three authors. But before you do, read THIS book ‑ LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME by James Loewen ‑ FIRST. It will blow your mind! .... He is BEYOND "power politics" of division, has NO radical axes to grind, and is a true gentleman and a scholar totally devoted to his discipline of researching the historical truths of our nation in order to share them with us all." — George Koumantzelis, U Mass. Lowell, george‑koumantzelis@mediaone.net, 11/26/2001.

"I am a 5th grade teacher whose American History text naturally tells the same lies as the ones at the High School level. My son, inspired by his high school teacher, bought me Lies My Teacher Told Me for Christmas. I am profoundly grateful for your book. I constantly use outside sources to give students a clearer idea about our country's past and now I have a resource that is a great starting point. It is unfortunate that in our quest to see ourselves and our country in positive light that we are willing to put ourselves into darkness. Thanks for the illumination! Gratefully yours, Stacy Hahn," rskhahn@earthllink.net, 30 Dec 2001.

"This book is magic. It really is. I'm loving it. I would love it more if my husband didn't keep stealing it to read every time I put it down for a moment." — Karen Abbott, wikkidwitch@yahoo.com, 12/2001.

"I read [Lies] religiously now every day. I take notes and notes on the material, to reinforce the information in my brain so that I may further convey it to others. And I often further my experience into the sources referenced in the back. I've never read a book as slowly as yours, because I cannot help but delve into the pages, and tread about them, rereading lines 3 and 4 times over.... I could never thank you enough for this book. I love it. Thank you!" — Eric Venuto, inkypapyrus@msn.com, Feb 2002.

"Words cannot describe how much your book has changed me. It's like seeing everything through new eyes. The eyes of truth as I like to call it." — Lennette Octaviani, NYC, NY Virgo2311@aol.com, 9/2002.

"I wanted to thank you for writing Lies My Teacher Told Me. It's my new favorite book, and it has shaken up my brain, but in a good way. — Anne Bader, St. Louis area, Annebader@aol.com, 9/2002.

"I wrote to you once about your wonderful book that changed my life.... I wanted to thank you once more. It is now my third year of teaching 11th grade U.S. history, including the AP level. I assign your text book to the AP kids and they love it. It stimulates profound discussion." — Michael Felix, hitch2@pacbell.net, 9/2002.

"I'm an eighth grade student who has read Lies My Teacher Told Me. My teacher recommended this book to me and I could not put it down. While I was reading it I couldn't stop asking myself why the history text books don't tell us many things and why don't you write a text book of your own. I agree that history is important, but unless someone tries to make it more interesting and less review words that we are going to forget by the end of the chapter history is going to be continued to be hated." — Jackie Tash, eeyoresbuddy@wideopenwest.com, 10/4/2002.

"Hello, my name is Lisa. I don't want you to speak at my school because I dropped out last year. I only made it to the 10th grade because there was no way for me to graduate on time since I hadn't passed history in 6 years. I went to my local community college becuase I heard there were some really good pot dealers there and enrolled. I met a conspiracy‑theorer who believed that history class was the government's way of keeping us from rebelling against the system that didn't work all that well. I told him he was full of ‑ well, you know‑ and that if history was supposed to keep us from rebelling why would it be so boring? I said we'll all get diagnosed with ADD before they realize that it's not us‑ it's the curriculum! He handed me "Lies my teacher told me" as though he was sneaking me crack, all secrative. No offense, but I thought the name was too dramatic and I tossed it in the trash after school. I ran back an hour later though and sifted through that trash, took it out and read it. And now (bom, bom, bom...) the point! Your book really helped me and the only place I could find to thank you was here, so thanks. — Lisa R., 17, email, 10/2002. "Ps. keep fighting for kids like me, so one day even history skeptics will find what I have found; History is actually fun!" — "Lisa," 11/2002.[[1]](#footnote-1)

"Your book is like industrial‑strength cleaner, stripping away the layers of distortion that have clouded the modern view of America's past. It has really inspired me, as a future teacher, to strive to give my students a fuller, more complex picture of the past, instead of always falling back on the 'fairy-tale' that often passes for history in our classrooms." — Patrick Anderson, British Columbia, panderson@pathology.ubc.ca, 12/2002.

"I no longer feel like I am walking down a blind path of unrealities. I hope that your voice will be heard for generations to come. The lives of the people you have touched will never be the same." — Shannon Stoltz, educator and graduate student, Penn. State Harrisburg, 11/2002.

"As I was reading Lies My Teacher Told Me, I would stop and tell [my husband] all the interesting facts that I never knew about history. Amazingly, this sparked an interest in him and he actually said to me, 'Katie, don't sell back that book at the end of the semester. I want to read that.'" — Kate Cramer, educator and graduate student, Penn. State Harrisburg, 11/2002.

"He has made us want to change for the better, not only for ourselves but for our students. I can think of no greater response to a book." — Melissa Dillen, educator and graduate student, Penn. State Harrisburg, 11/2002.

"Since finishing Lies My Teacher Told Me I have altered my own methods. I have to say that the feelings of frustration and embarrassment that I once felt have been replaced with motivation and inspiration. I have stopped using a textbook. This requires more time in the school library, but selfishly, I want to learn for myself as well as my students.... More than any of my undergraduate methods classes, Lies has given me insight as to what I want my teaching to accomplish." — Angela Caufman, educator and graduate student, Penn. State Harrisburg, 11/2002.

"It is truly hard to believe that this was the first time in my 25 years of existence that I heard of many of the facts presented in this book. I will remember this book as a starting point for my growth as an educator who teaches history." — Jill Martin, educator and graduate student, Penn. State Harrisburg, 11/2002.

"Your book is required reading in every US history course I teach.... Your book is invaluable for introducing students to the inadequacies and inaccuracies of most history texts. They use it as a formula/tool for critiquing everything else they read. And every semester their response is overwhelmingly positive. It is the one book they consistently agree should be regular reading for all students, teachers, etc." — Prof. Dawn Riggs, San Diego State University, 1/2004.

"It was wonderful to teach your book; the students engaged it more deeply than anything else I assigned." — Prof. Kevin Murphy, U. of Minnesota, 1/2004.

"I have to say I think Lies My Teacher Told Me is one of the most important books of the last 25 years. I've given it away a number of times and am constantly recommending it." — Jonathan Silverman, Pace U., 1/2004

"Your book has been incredibly helpful in the courses I teach... to illustrate making logical arguments supported by factual or historical evidence. Most of the students in my classes are pretty unused to having to back up their claims, and your chapters are so clear and methodical that they make a perfect illustration of the kind of support I'm looking for." — Susannah Bartlow, U. of Buffalo, 1/2004.

"A Mexican American college student said [high school] history was his favorite course. On the first day of class his teacher held up the textbook, said 'This is the textbook California mandates that we use,' and threw it over the students' heads against the back wall. It lay on the floor there for the rest of the semester. He then held up your book, said 'This will be our textbook,' and they had a great year." — Gerald Shenk, gerald\_shenk@csumb.edu, 2/2003, paraphrased.

"I had no success or ambition toward high school, making college absolutely unlikely. The last thing in the world I could have wanted was to sit in a classroom ever again. I got a job working on a forklift in a warehouse and read voraciously from my local library during my breaks. I happened across LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME and was floored.... That was about 8 years ago. Today I am a high school history teacher and couldn't be happier. I use both of your books, as well as books by Zinn, Chomsky, and many others that I only wish I had been exposed to earlier. Your books changed my life." — Matt Meister, Ohio, 2/2004.

"I recently read your novel Lies My Teacher Told Me for my AP United States History class. Shocked is the only way I can describe my reaction. After reading your novel I was forced to look at American history in a new light. I no longer read a history chapter and assume that all the information is correct. If I have questions about the viewpoint expressed in my history text I will look on‑line to find more sources; your novel has truely prompted me to ask questions and to really think about the information being taught and form my own opinion." — "Sydney T.", 3/2004

"I wanted to thank you for writing a book that does not dictate to students what they should know, but gives them motivation to begin to 'think outside the box.' I'm happy to let you know that all 10 faculty members have agreed once again to use your book for this summer. We are hoping to keep it as our main text for the next few years...." — Shiva Parsa, Coordinator, Bridge Programs/Educational Opportunity Program, California State University, Northridge, 4/2004.

"For the past two years, I have had my students read Lies My Teacher Told Me as a summer assignment and asked them to write an essay on the extent to which U.S. History books often misinterpret or misinform. The idea is to get them to think outside the box. My brighter students quickly pick up on Loewen's criticism of Bailey and wonder why we still use it in class. Incidentally, if you haven't had your students read Lies, I highly recommend it." — Larry Gates, Georgetown High School, SC, post to Advanced Placement U.S. History discussion list, 7/2004.

"I am a young black American man. And to tell you the truth... I didn't know anything about appreciating the truth! Untill I read your book LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME. I have not read a book in so long because I thought I knew, but now I know I do not. I am going back to school so I can learn eveything I can know. Because now I know that some of society was banking on me not finding out." — S. Robinson, 7/2004.

"I used Lies My Teacher Told Me with my docents when I first came to this museum to talk about critical thinking about what they read, about the changing interpretations of history, and what has characteristically been left out.... Some were quite upset, but I notice that they now think critically and have come around to consider what they read skeptically, which was the point." — Ellen K. Moore, Curator of Education, Roswell Museum and Art Center, 10/2004.

"My life has been energized by your books." — Bill Winters, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 10/2004.

"I make constant reference to Lies My Teacher Told Me in my AP US History class. From reading your book, I've had my students do several textbook analysis activities, and many of them have gone out and bought your book on their own. It's kind of cool to watch them walking into class with a stack of history books they've purchased for their own outside reading..." — Cara Satterfield, Truman High School, Independence, MO, 11/2004.

"I am a 33‑year‑old principal in a small, rural high school in Eastern Oklahoma. My librarian gave me a copy of Lies My Teacher Told Me... I am completely enthralled and could not put it down. I just wanted to tell you that your book changed my life." — Chris Jenkins, Principal, Pawnee High School, Oklahoma, 12/2004.

"A fascinating, thoroughly researched, and immensely challenging read. Thank you. I learned a lot about a lot that I thought I knew a lot about!" — Edward Kormondy, former Chancellor, University of Hawaii, 12/2004.

"Praise the Lord for your most insightful book that I just got through reading, Lies My Teacher Told Me.... My congratulations to you for the courage you had to have to write such a book that goes against the grain." — Jason Farr, inmate, Redgranite Correctional Institution, WI, 12/2004.

"I feel like my mind is being cleansed from unwanted stereotypes. I teach English to speakers of other languages, and consider myself to be respectful, open, and caring toward other races. But I was never able to completely shake old sterotypical images from my mind, though I tried continuously. However, I felt the layers of unwanted images and ideas peeling from my mind as I read your book. I wanted you to know how grateful I am.... I am going to tell everyone who will listen that this is a must read book in today's society. You have given an amazing gift. Honestly, you have so turned me on to the study of history that I am ready to find a way to become more of a history scholar myself. I can't say enough about the scholarly and fair manner in which Lies was written." — Sylvia Baxter, 1/2005.

"I just discovered your book and love it. Been wanting to see this book for what seems like eons now... My teachers lied to me!!! And I'm angry as all get out!... Is there a more important book published in the last 50 years? Last 100? Ever?... In any case, could any book be more important to the United States right now? That answer must surely be no ‑ and proving that case woud be, in the words of the infamous Mr. Tenet, a slam dunk." — Peter Smith, Washington, D.C., 1/2005.

"I just finished reading your very enlightening book Lies My Teacher Told Me.... I am a 45 year old "junior" in college and a secondary‑education / broadfield social science / history major. I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am for the insights your book gave me.... With every ounce of my being, I want to be a teacher who isn't afraid to teach the truth. I also hope that my passion for history will become contagious and that at least some of my students will not be afraid to become "infected." Please know that your years of research and writing have had a profound impact on me." — Terrae Gorney, 1/2005.

"I am currently a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in Bangladesh.... While here in "the Desh" I read your Lies My Teacher Told Me, and I have to say, the effect on me was profound. Your book, as well as several others I have read, mainly sociology and history books, have really changed the direction and scope of my thought, now focusing it in a new direction.... I never really had much interest in history, but I think that has a great deal to do with HOW I learned it, and how it was taught (as described in your book).... I thought I had a good grasp on America, its history, culture, values, etc, before coming here, but boy did I realize I was wrong. Not only that, but what I knew (and know) of the outside world. Escaping our stateside bubble can burst one's own pretty quickly. Your book helped with that. Not only was I reading this highly critical and informing analysis of history, from a perspective I'd rarely if ever heard before, but I was doing it AWAY from the culture I was concieved by and domesticated within.... Being in a Muslim society has helped me better understand the idea of not judging, observing and learning from." — Adam Kaswiner, 2/2005.

"I used [Lies My teacher Told Me] in my American History classes last semester and the students were enthralled! The projects I got on "The Truth about the First Thanksgiving" were truly awesome! You would have been proud." — Marge Schmidt, Suffield, CT, 2/2005.

"I picked up your CD, Lies My Teacher Told Me, last November before we left on a long car trip. My husband, 13‑year‑old son, and I then listened to the CDs nonstop as we drove across Texas. When we returned to our home in Houston, we were "new" thinkers, thanks to your CDs. I had friends (and also that includes me) who actually wept while we listened to the CDs." — Susie Adams, The Woodlands, TX, 2/2005.

"Thank you again for giving me something to get excited about even after 30 years of teaching!" — Marge Schmidt, Suffield, CT, 2/2005.

"I really wanted to thank you for writing this book. It should be considered a national treasure." — Chris Kok, student, Kent State, 5/2005.

"[Lies] is the BEST nonfiction book I've ever consumed. Your writing style is impeccable, your honesty unparalleled, and your research and citing timely and superb. The book is engaging and difficult to put down.... You are a true national treasure and I thank you for your effort and honesty. You are a real American." — Diane White, MD, 7/2005.

"Your book has helped me better understand my own early miseducation and the poison of racism better than any other single source. It is also a beautiful illustration, chapter after chapter, of critical thinking, evidence, and argument. Bravo!" — Prof. Karen Okeafor Hooker, U. of Michigan, 10/2005.

"Your book should be serialized on PBS!.... It was the perfect book to start reading on Columbus Day (which I did)." — Jeff Brownell, Herndon, VA 10/2005.

"I use excerpts from your Lies book in my AP U.S. History lectures all the time, and value the book as a classroom resource." — Don Kaag, Moscow High School Moscow, ID, 10/2005.

"I also have a class set of LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME and use it as a supplement for my class..,.. I keep a copy in my podium at the front of class and when one of my students brings up a topic that lends it to controversy I reach in and hold up my copy and we're off on a heated discussion of history. These are the great moments in class. I happen to like LIES because it helps my students begin to think!" — Bill Polson, H.S. teacher, Advanced Placement U.S. History, Broken Arrow, OK, 10/2005.

"I just wanted to let you know that I don't consider [Lies My Teacher Told Me] outdated; I really don't see much improvement in textbooks at all!" — Tomi Evans, Sherwood, AR, 10/2005.

"One guy came to me to tell me how he really enjoyed [Lies]. As he put it, 'I was expecting some liberal bullshit, but I thought it was right on.'" — Erik Bailey, 11/2005.

"Mr. Loewen, I am a high school kid from Minneapolis, MN. When I was a freshman I didn't like school and I didn't like it because it was boring and it just didn't interest me. One day I came across your book at a library and the title just caught me and I just started reading and from that second I couldn't put the book down because it just opened my eyes to the world and I changed around before it was too late. I went from the kid who was having truancy problems to taking Advanced Placement U.S History, and I always mention your works and words whenever we discuss something in class. You're my inspiration and hero. If GOD didn't place that book in my hands I don't know what kind of kid I would be today." — Kamal Mohamed, Minneapolis, MN, 2/2006.

"I have assigned Lies My Teacher Told Me throughout the school year and my students all have LOVED it!" — M. Sweetman, H.S. teacher, Advanced Placement U.S. History, 3/2006.

"...In Lies I encountered misconceptions in my own understanding that rocked even some of the most basic foundations of that understanding. In Lies, Jim lays out the often contradictory declarations of the various textbooks about what supposedly happened in American history, filling in many aspects they omit or universally get wrong, and contrasts their implicit assertion that history is cut and dried (and, hence, incredibly boring to almost all HS students) with the actual excitement and passion of the give and take between historians in the real world." — Dick Atlee, ME, 3/2006.

"That book single-handedly has made me want to study United States history again and learn everything that was left out... I no longer read fiction — I have no time!" — Susan Pacer, Wittenberg, WI, 6/2006.

"I have used Lies as one of the primary textbooks for my class for a number of years.... One of my assignments is that students must ... compare your critique of US history texts with what they found in the text being utilized by their school.... Students always find this an incredibly engaging and informative assignment that many times leaves a lasting impact on their future teaching." — Bruce Baron, U. of California Irvine and middle school principal, 6/2006.

"Lies My Teacher Told Me is one of my favorite books. As a fifth grade teacher, indeed, as an American citizen it has helped form my framework for thinking. It's been passed to many of my good friends, colleagues (and of course, my spouse) these three or more years that I've had it." — Jennifer Damon, teacher, Miamisburg, OH, 9/2006.

"Your book, Lies My Teacher Told Me, convinced me to go back to graduate school and become a teacher." — Mark Schmidt, Executive Director, Historic Winslow House, and professor of history, Fitchburg State College, 11/2006.

"Your book reminded me of my father. When discussing history or social issues he often mentions several sides of the issue or event with historical background. Thank you for helping me to continue my education. Hopefully, you have helped me to mature in my thinking." — Matthew DeLong, 1/2/2007.

"I've been grateful to you and your work for sparking the most interesting conversations, quizzes and exams in my classes, for helping me to teach my students how they'd like to think, what questions they'd like to ask, and a little about the process of drawing conclusions." — Prof. Melinda Wilkins, Penn State, 4/2007.

"Few books have made me as furious and have made me think as much as your Lies My Teacher Told Me. I was required to read it for my A.P. United States History summer reading and I loved it. I think it affected me so much because I am a student and I feel cheated.... I am eager to get back to school (I am on summer vacation now) so that I can tear into my textbooks and discover their lies. I never even questioned that my textbooks could be wrong. The thought hadn't occurred to me. Now it is all I think about. Thank you. Sincerely," — Merany E., somewhere at aol.com, 7/2007.

"When I did assign LIES for summer reading, it raised the level of intellectual discourse in my classes. Kids looked at every event we discussed in a more sophisticated way." — Spiro Bolos, teacher of AP U.S. History, Buffalo Grove, IL, 5/2008.

"I found the book seminal, eye-opening, life-changing." — Colby Glass, professor, Palo Alto College, TX, 8/2007.

"For those who need evidence of the fictions of schooling and the power of ideology, this is the source. I emphatically recommend this book for teachers of all subject areas as a foundation for understanding the need to abandon traditional practices in favor of empowering ones." — Prof. R. L. Hoover, Youngstown State University, 8/2007.

"I had the chance to listen to your book on an extended car trip over Thanksgiving. I wanted to let you know how valuable I thought it was. It has certainly changed my views on the development of this country, and my place in it as a upper‑upper‑middle class white male given all the chances to succeed. Much of what you wrote in 1995 has been very prescient to where we find ourselves today." — Andy Gerber, 12/2007.

I finished reading your book "Lies my Teacher Told Me" literally minutes ago, and I normally wouldn't give any thought to things like this, but I was so remarkably moved by learning of things I hadn't even heard be hinted at in high school or college courses that I just had to say 'Thank you', and I hope when I have children, they're given resources like this to learn from in their schools. Ben Bauer, 1/2008

"I was never interested in history, but after reading your book, I changed my views over history. ... Luckily, I chose AP US History this year; I didn't realize that I would be studying history this way.... Sadly, when we're all seniors, we're back to the way it was. Reading the textbook — how boring!" — Reno Petelo, student, Guam, 3/2008.

"To be honest ... I expected some light-hearted, humorous, pseudo-historical expose of American history, and I bought the book as a book-on-tape to keep myself entertained on a road-trip to a conference. I feel truly humbled after listening to the tapes — here I was, thinking I was reasonably informed as an amateur historian, but I now feel challenged to look for alternative explanations." — Prof. Rebecka Jornsten, Rutgers U., 4/2008.

As a teacher, I can tell you that Lies has had a powerful impact on our culture. Semester after semester students who's only association with history in the past was desultory, have been transformed and awakened. As a tool for examining social structure, I find it simply invaluable. — David Weiner, Texas, 9/2008.

"The book is a huge hit with students. In fact, I once performed a crude multiple regression of my student evaluation ratings over the years, and the dummy variable for 'Assigned Lies my teacher told me' was strongly positive and significant, more so than any other variable in the regression!" — Ranjit Dighe, Associate Professor of Economics, SUNY College at Oswego, 12/2008.

"I have been using Lies My Teacher Told Me in my Composition I class for the last five years or so.... Your book makes a deep impression every time I use it, particularly since most of the students in those classes are fresh from high school and victims of their particular social studies texts. I can assure you that after a couple of weeks, they are amazed, indignant, and eager to re-examine their ideas and beliefs about American history. They learn a lot about writing, too, as I use your text to examine strategies of argument and the application of the rhetorical modes. I have found that using your book as the core text in that course is much more effective than the usual Composition readers.... Your book has had a profound effect on many of my students, and it has opened up many paths for me to take from an instructional point of view." — Erskine Carter, Professor of English, Black Hawk College (IL), 4/2009.

"Your book has provided me the insight and leverage to create 'thinkers' out of my sons and not just 'memorizers.'" — Mark Voelker, former Marine, future teacher, 6/2009.

"Just a quick note to thank you so very much for this book. It's been sitting on my bookshelf for many years, and I've just read it. It's the most important and revealing book I've ever read. PS: I was in a coffee shop reading your book recently and a kid sitting at the table next to me remarked what a great book it is. Indeed!" — 53-year-old Colorado resident, 6/2009.

"It is appalling that as a teacher and history major I was shocked several times upon reading your book. I was blessed to have very brilliant and open-minded high school history teachers and professors who dispelled many of the myths in our textbooks, but your book goes deeper than I ever could have imagined.... This is the best book I've ever read." — James Derrick, Lancaster Christian Academy (TN?), 1/2010.

"Your work is an inspiration and a life changer for many of my peers." — Dan Elgin, student in Educational Psychology and Special Education, Southern Illinois University, 3/2010.

Your book, "Lies My Teacher Told Me," has provided me words I have sought my entire adult life. You've given me the power to explain why I am conflicted about my own country. Of most importance to me (and the topic of this note) is Chapter 7, "Land of Opportunity." I find the discussion of class therein not only academically extraordinary but personally validating. I actually cried several times while reading the chapter. — Information technology worker, Houston, TX, 3/2010.

"[W]e finished discussing the Vietnam War, so I decided ... to show the five pictures discussed by Mr. Loewen as vital photos that are omitted from most American History textbooks, despite being so easily recalled by Americans who lived through the Vietnam era. The response from the students was fantastic, as they seemed to hang on every word I read, & a pin drop could be heard." — Jon Craig, Social Studies Department Chair, Levittown, PA, 4/2010.

"I am a junior student studying in a public high school in China.... [A]fter reading your books, I started to realize that there are some part[s] that even American history textbook[s] got wrong. As a Chinese who travels a lot and loves to listen to the opinions from all over the world, I know the disadvantages of my country and know there are a lot [of] mistakes our own history book[s] made deliberately; the aim is to protect the govenment. But when it comes to American history, I was a litte surprised that even Americans just tell partly the history. But American society is still better than ours: at least there are people like you who can realize this and write a book to correct it, and the government allowed [it]. This is the best way to make improvement!" — Chinese reader, 7/2010.

"Your book changed my life and is the reason I earned a baccalaureate degree in history before law school." — Donald Edmond, Washington D.C., 8/2010.

"Your book has been a godsend to me over the years." - Susan Moger, Eastern Shore, MD, 8/2010.

"I read the book in 2000 on a flight to Spain for my honeymoon, and I remember being completely dumbfounded that I had such a poor understanding of American history. The feeling was so intense that here I sit, ten years later, closing in on an advanced degree in the subject. When I read your book, I was a college drop-out with only three semesters under my belt. It inspired me to return to school." — Matt Keyworth, Texas A&M University, 10/2010.

"I just wanted to say thank you for changing my life. I truly feel more enlightened after having read this book and I feel like it couldn't have come at a better time. I have two small children and want to make sure they become good people. Not just patriotic white people in America. I think that armed with the facts I got from your book, along with a stronger desire to question (which I also got from your book), I can be a better father. And a better citizen of the world." — Gary Metts, Providence, RI, 1/2011.

"I just wanted to personally thank you for your writing and for laying the ground work for others. Really. You changed my life." — Molly Secours, 2/2011.

"I was assigned your book Lies My Teacher Told Me as part of an Advanced Placement Language Course and I have found it incredibly useful. Though I really hadn't started reading this book with the expectation that it would cause me to bring into question my entire knowledge of history as I know it, it has." — junior, Millard West High School, Omaha, NE, 7/2011.

"I'm an incoming junior, taking AP US History. For our summer assignment, we were given multiple books to read and analyze ... including Lies My Teacher Told Me. I was really not looking forward to reading any of the books, because history was always my least favorite subject, so I left all my history assignments to the last minute. Anyway, I just finished Lies, and I'm left speechless.... I can't explain the impact your work has had on me. I've been encouraging my friends who aren't required to read this book to read it anyway, just for their own benefit." — Nouran Ayad, Canton, CT, 8/2011.

"Your book was unlike anything I have ever read and it really spoke to me.... I think that your work is incredible and astonishing. In all my years of being a student I was never taught as much useful and insightful information than from your book." — Alexandria Bet, New Paltz, NY, 11/2011.

"I keep trying to put your book, Lies My Teacher Told Me in my book case, but I keep opening it to read parts again, then I start writing in it again, then I go back to the footnotes and then... I write in books I read all the time but I have never written more in any book than yours. Sometimes because I agree, sometimes because I disagree, but mostly because it is so damn interesting." — H.S. teacher, Arlington, VA, 3/2012.

"When I recently covered the Nadir Period ... students were interested and excited. One even asked me, "Why don't other teachers ever tell us these things?" I owe it all to you and just wanted you to know you have had an impact on my life through your work and hence have had an impact on my students' lives." — Mike Rieg, teacher, Indiana Senior High School, Indiana, PA, 3/2012.

"One of the most amazing books I have ever read in any genre. Other readers have said it was 'eye-opening' and 'life-changing,' and I must say that I am wholeheartedly inclined to agree." — fairly typical email, 4/2013.

"I am writing you to express how much I love your book. I make sure to read it at least once a year,,,, Going through high school, I hated history. Our teacher was the former football coach.... My past education basically mirrors what you describe in your book, but it was more than just being able to relate to what you were writing. The way you present the information, in a critical fashion, absolutely changed my life.... I will be perusing a History Teaching B.A. and then plan on getting either a Masters in History or Education.... Your book changed my life, and I could not be happier with the direction my life is headed." — Jeremiah Brockman, Iowa, July 2014.

"I found myself shocked about the various information that was presented. Right away, Loewen discussed Woodrow Wilson and Helen Keller, providing information about both people that I had no idea about. He brought up excellent points in how heroism does not tell the whole story, but instead leaves people misinformed and bored. I actually liked history and even became certified to be a high school social studies teacher, but after two chapters of Loewen's book I found that I was missing out on a lot of huge issues that my students should know about! My eyes have been greatly opened already about the problems with history textbooks, and even the history preparation information I received to become a certified social studies teacher." — Oregon K-12 U.S. history teacher, email to Prof. Jean Moule, 1/2015.

"Hello Mr. Loewen. My name is Billy Jordan, and I am a student currently in the eighth grade. I'm simply on page 25 in your book, "Lies My Teacher Told Me", and the amount of times I've wanted to walk up to my history teacher and have them read the introduction alone. I can't get over the fact there are still 293 pages of information to get through. I'm fascinated by what you've said about history textbooks, and how [in]accurate that information was. I'd never even heard those poor things about Wilson before, textbooks completely left that part out.

"The main reason I'm emailing isn't so much just to fan over your book, but more so to ask you a question. How do I go about spreading this information to others? I don't wish to be rude to my teacher, I know she isn't at fault, but I still wish to let everyone know what textbooks aren't telling us. My fellow classmates know nothing beyond what the textbooks told them about American history." — probably from rural VA, 4/2015.

"It is with the utmost honor that I began the semester with your chapter Red Eyes and now will end it with your message about the OAH resolution." — Kathryn Johnson, Retention Enhancement Coordinator, History, Northern Michigan University, 4/2015.

"This book is having such a profound effect on me, that I have to pause many days to absorb the enormity of the lies, before going on. I am determined to finish it, however." — elainedatter2@yahoo.com, 5/2015.

"Lies My Teacher Told Me is a wonderful, critical, essential appraisal of contemporary U.S. teaching and having just completed this important work, I feel so much more optimistic about the future of our country." — Alden Waitt, retired professor of English, Ohio University, 2/2016.

"I am writing to you to show my gratitude for the way in which you helped to reshape my view of the world.... your written works have been like a revelation to me, reshaping the lens through which I now see the past, and, indeed, the present." — Dale Kiefer, 40-year-old Ohio aspiring novelist.

"Back in 2001, just before I turned 21, a friend lent me his copy of Lies My Teacher Told Me. It changed my life, and sent me on a much more engaged, conscious path. Thank you for changing my life." — email to me sixteen years later, in 2017.

"I absolutely loved it. A profound revelation. And a page-turner to boot." — recent HS graduate, Los Angeles, 7/2018.

“I picked up a copy of Lies My Teacher Told Me' at a thrift store in my early 20's. Your book changed my world view and life.” -- Native American college professor, 2018.

1. From: Lisa, via "David Lucus" deserteagle7158@prodigy.net [↑](#footnote-ref-1)