

2022-11-25

Hard News on Friday

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

**DOCUMENT OVERVIEW**

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable
- III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST
- IV SATURDAY HISTORY CALL – NOTES, REFERENCE MATERIALS

**I B B S RADIO - ACCESS TO THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS** <https://bbsradio.com/>

DAY	B B S Station	TIME	PROGRAM	CONFERENCE CALL	HOSTS
Thursday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	A Night at the Round Table	None	Panel Members Guests Callers welcome.
Friday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	Friday Night Hard News	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara Callers welcome.
Saturday	#2	1:30 pm PT/ 4:30 Eastern	History of our Galactic World & NESARA aka The True History	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara callers welcome.

**NOTE: 2<sup>nd</sup> CONFERENCE CALL # for both Friday, Saturday**

**605-313-5166**

Pin Code: 353 863#

**ADDITIONAL HELP FOR LISTENERS**

**B B S LISTENER TOOLS**

**B B S RADIO STATION 1**

**B B S RADIO STATION 2**

A Night at the Roundtable  
Friday Night Hard News

Saturday History Call

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CLICK ON **AUDIO ICON**

CLICK ON **AUDIO ICON**



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[NO code needed]

**1-804-220-6484**  
[No code needed]

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## B B S ARCHIVES

- go to [www.bbsradio.com](http://www.bbsradio.com)
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the required program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING.**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on required date.

## II ACCESS TO OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY Rainbow Roundtable

NAME OF CALL / HOST	WEEKDAY / TIME	ACCESS POINT	TELEPHONE NUMBER
<b>Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call</b> Grand Goddess Lillie	<b>Wednesday</b> 6:00 – 7:30 MST	<b>Telephone Only</b>	<b>1-605-472-5406</b> <b>PIN 402-493#</b>
<b>Abundance Call</b> Caroline Oceana Ryan	<b>Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b> <b>5:45 PM PT/ 8:45 PM ET</b>	<b>Telephone</b> <b>ZOOM</b>	

To be notified: email <https://www.ascensiontimes.com/the-abundance-group>  
Scroll down to the sign-up sheet and enter the requested info.

<b>Ascension Call</b> Cheryl Croci	<b>Every Sunday, Monday</b> <b>9 – 10:30 EST</b>	<b>Telephone Only</b>	<b>1-425-436-6260</b> <b>PIN 9467 441#</b> Call Cheryl for # in your area
<b>Ashtar Legacy Calls</b> Fran Pearre	<b>Every 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday – no call <b>9:00 – 10:00 pm EST</b>	<b>Telephone</b> <b>VOIP/ H D</b> <b>via Skype</b>	<b>1-717-908-1834</b> <b>PIN 980 339#</b> Call is free; LD charges are not <b>1-717-908-1834</b> <b>PIN #980 339#</b> <a href="https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/">https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/</a> Click on VOIP button and enter info as requested

To access past ALC calls, go to [Ashtar Legacy Teleconferences \(ashtarontheroad.com\)](http://ashtarontheroad.com)

## III ARCHIVES: provided by B B S RADIO RAINBOW ROUNDTABLE

### ARCHIVES: B B S

- Go to [www.bbsradio.com](http://www.bbsradio.com)
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the desired program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on desired date.

### ARCHIVES: Rainbow Roundtable

- Go to <https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/>
- **WRITTEN**
  - Go to "Archives" tab: See NOTES on RHS
- **AUDIO**
  - Go to "Archives" tab: See AUDIO on LHS:  
Included: BBS podcast + Conference Call Links

### III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

**A. Opening Meditation:** Rainbird

**B. Mayan Calendar / Record of Days:** Rainbird

- Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave

- to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> which will link you further to [www.lawoftime.org](http://www.lawoftime.org) website for further information.

**PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PODCAST TO HEAR THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION OF EACH DATE**  
**Also note: This is not a 3<sup>rd</sup> dimensional calendar!**

[www.Spacestationplaza.co](http://www.Spacestationplaza.co) Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.  
For even more information, SEE ALSO **the Law of Time.org**

<b>25<sup>h</sup> Friday</b>	<b>9 CHUEN</b>	<b>Blue Solar Monkey</b>	<b>Artist Aspect</b>
Working with balancing work and play; paying attention to clarity of mind; embraced gift of innocence and spontaneity – let go of jadedness			
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Saturday</b>	<b>10 EB</b>	<b>Yellow Planetary Human</b>	<b>Healing Aspect</b>
PORTAL DAY - about working with enlightenment of human kind; attuning to Spirit. Gift of abundance – let go of dependence on mind			
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>11 BEN</b>	<b>Red Spectral Skywalker</b>	<b>Warrior Aspect</b>
About Focus, striving to self-illumination; embrace the gift of the skywalker and bend dimension. Let go of illusion of aloneness			
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Monday</b>	<b>12 IX</b>	<b>White Crystal Magician</b>	<b>Visionary Aspect</b>
Looking at gift of purpose. We work in integrity and in accordance with Divine Will			
<b>29<sup>th</sup> Tuesday</b>	<b>13 MEN</b>	<b>Blue Cosmic Eagle</b>	<b>Visionary Aspect</b>
This wave is ending – the promise of change. Working with our commitment to service, moving closer to Spirit. Let go of illusion of separateness			
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday</b>	<b>1 CIB</b>	<b>Yellow Magnetic Warrior</b>	<b>Warrior Aspect</b>
WAVE of CIB – We'll be with our integrity and right aspects. Trust in our journey – gift is access to Spirit			
<b>Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</b>	<b>2 CABAN</b>	<b>Red Lunar Earth</b>	<b>Healing Aspect</b>
PORTAL DAY We are the keeper of the earth, are aware of Earth energy – we are the balancing point			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Friday</b>	<b>3 ETZNAB</b>	<b>White Electric Mirror</b>	<b>Warrior Aspect</b>
ABOUT wise use of honesty and self-understanding. Gift of skrying the unseen, letting go of the illusion of separateness			

#### **C. Housekeeping:**

- We are asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**  
**T & R:** Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the scenes of the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage** [www.rainbowroundtable.net](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net)

**B B S RADIO:**

- The radio programs are supported by us, the listeners.
- The THREE radio programs cost \$300 per week.
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

**B B S RADIO**

**B B S RADIO**  
**58 N Marshside Place**  
**Spring, TX 77389**

Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope  
 And note inside: "for the Thursday,  
 Friday AND Saturday calls"

- **All BBS archives can be accessed FOR FREE by everyone.**
- **NB: AT [www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives) YOU WILL ALSO FIND**
  - **AUDIO ARCHIVES** (BBS Radio Podcasts plus Conference Calls) **and**
  - **PROGRAM NOTES** (downloadable and printable)

**OTHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

**FOOD MONEY:** VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON [www.rainbowroundtable.net](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net)

Rama has a pride of Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = up to 13 in total

**Financial Requirements**

**WEEKLY**

**B B S RADIO/week**

\$ 617.51 Just over one week behind! **THANKS!**

**PERSONAL**

Gas, food, etc

\$200

Bills

\$ 400 **bills**

Miscellaneous/Other

**MONTHLY**

**Rent - \$1,150 / mo**

**\$1,150 Due on Tuesday, Nov 29**

**CONTACT INFO**

- **Please notify Rama when sending something** [koran9999@comcast.net](mailto:koran9999@comcast.net)
- **Mailing address for checks, money orders, etc**  
 Ram D Berkowitz  
 PO Box 280  
 Santa Cruz, NM 87567

**EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**

**PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH**

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**  
**\*\* [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) \*\***

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with **Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM**
- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to [www.rainbowroundtable.net](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net) and link to their Paypal account: choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

**FREEMART: SUPPLEMENTS.** This account helps Rama & Tara; it's the source of their supplements

The returns also help [www.rainbowroundtable.net](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net)

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram>

a/c # 7000

- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN**.
- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- check out the heading called **READ MORE: lots of** good information

**FREEMART: NUGEN COIN:** <https://www.nugencoin.com/tarram>

To help Marshall and support him by signing up under his name:  
<https://www.nugencoin.com/marnor>

**TO GET HELP, Call Carolyn [Rainbird] or Micah**

Carolyn's E-mail: [lightenergync@gmail.com](mailto:lightenergync@gmail.com)

Micah's E-mail: [thegreenalchemist@gmail.com](mailto:thegreenalchemist@gmail.com)

CALL THEM FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION/ISSUES RELATED TO NUGEN COINS

**Access to this week's Podcast**

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-november-25-2022>

**NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-631-359-9353 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 1.**

TO LISTEN TO CALLS ON THE PHONE:

1-631-359-9353

**HARD NEWS**

**Rama, Tara [R, T]**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING – we are giving thanks to be here . . . NOW.**

Rama speaks: He went to visit Professor Nicodemus and Dr Steve at 11:45 late this morning. They said to him, "Lord Rama, the energies are as high as our bodies can handle it." [and as high as cosmic law will allow for us]

Then they took me to their lab/workroom through the manhole cover under the street and into the underground space. As we went into the room, there were two 6' tall transformers from the junkyard; they'd hooked up their Tesla coils to them. R was in the room with the arcs of energy; the other two were in a Faraday cage.

He was instructed to meditate on a place he would like to visit. After 15 minutes, he was teleported into the plasma pool at Mr Fenn's house – Mrs Fenn was eating a late breakfast and was a bit startled! She said she was surprised to see him, as she had not been expecting him!

He said excuse me and that he would be on his way, then focussed on getting back; ended up in their lab: they said he did quite well with that – think of the transformative energies and just focus on peace – the energies are as high as our bodies can handle.

**Blaze the Violet Fire for what has happened this week . . .**

**R:** It is about the programming that came in a long time ago – has to do with Mother's wayward children – What he's seeing is the blind rush of the far right -

**R** gets the sense – he can go into a room and meditate with the energies and could teleport – this tells him things are moving exponentially fast: he was not able to do that last year! It's about us learning how to slow down and meditate

- He wasn't afraid or worried about the arcs of energies doing anything bad: when you use the Violet Field and go into the Field yourselves, you are .

## 2022-20-21 Mystery of the Weeping Woman - ROBERT SEPEHR

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVMFiIacc3o&ab\\_channel=RobertSepehr](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVMFiIacc3o&ab_channel=RobertSepehr)



[Robert Sepehr](#)

Often associated with the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos), La Llorona is a popular myth in Mexico, Central America, and the Northern parts of South America... what are the true esoteric origins of the mysterious weeping woman?



### CONFERENCE CALL

<https://fccdl.in/LH0fmJH8zN>

**PLEASE ACCESS THE C. Call link to get more details. . . .**

**Rainbird:** confirms some details re: the Mayan Calendar we just discussed

- song to the moon – Dvorak – based on the fable of moussaka the water spirit

***Died Suddenly*** – a video on youtube, Bit chute [about the jab, people dying so suddenly . . .

- has seen on Facebook – animals going around in circles – birds, sheep and others were named
- R:** has to do with the earth's magnetic field which is expanding and contracting in relationship to the sun as it's getting ready to send out solar flashes

R saw the video about the animals – as the earth's magnetics gets wonky, the animals let us know

**RGM:** tv stars, singers – the companies are stealing their master tapes and other things – how greedy they are!

**Caller:** question about next Wakonda movie  
so-called antagonist or protagonist – is a mutant

## B B S RADIO

Rama's music

Ave Satche

AUDIO: Era of Peace

Patricia Cota Robles

### VLOG 298 ASSIMILATING THE ACTIVITIES OF LIGHT – PART 2

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdJVv-saY2c&ab\\_channel=PatriciaCotaRobles](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdJVv-saY2c&ab_channel=PatriciaCotaRobles)

I am loving all life free with cosmic forgiveness



AUDIO: Radiant Rose Academy – not completed

### MOTHER SEHKMET / ALCYONE

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! In the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, We invoke the loving energies of St Germane and the Violet Flame.

**Greetings, Children of Ra! Alcyone is speaking**

We are all here! The Company of Heaven as we have heard!

Yes, as things are moving into this time, giving/receiving – a return of Ophiuchus - the energies keep moving higher as this planet is bathed in the Violet Flame as we just heard. What Patti was saying: this sacred hour is at hand; it's about being here now in this moment, loving all life free!

We are watching the most trying times, we could say, that challenge our very existence in this realm. Yet is it about this cycle that is completing itself. Every 26,826 years! We return in the end of each yuga to balance stuff out. You could say, we are the great equalizer, yet we don't have a gun! It is

Some music was playing??

It's about this sacred hour of the mighty I AM Presence! She would like to say in loving presence: all the guns will stop working as the energies get higher. At a certain point, the frequencies are such that what's happening right now is the very nature of this transfiguration. This is why we are seeing such intense issues at hand.

- She always shows up at the beginning and the end of the cycles. With it comes climate disruption, climate change, consciousness raising, and conflict because it is about the shifting of the ages
- We are going from Kali Yuga to Sat Yuga and with that, comes the great shift in the wind: "the

answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind" as [Bob] Dylan said

- It is about us changing how we be: what Patti was speaking about: the energies are high enough for transfiguration, transmutation of these very bodies. All we need do is use the Force.
- It's about going into the quantum field within ourselves – get down to that level of those particles that make up every living thing – they pass through light; it's like passes through matter, anti-matter - it is a mixture of both – this is the essence of life: matter/anti- matter - it's how we create.

What's happening right now in this particular section of this little quadrant of the galaxy- this - we are non-stop heading for Ascension - all eyes are on earth; how we do this is with love, and great respect and gratitude for all life whether it swims or flies or crawls or walks –

- what comes to mind at the moment is these stories of what's happening in this realm. As we move higher in octave, everybody's waking up to the fact that war is not the answer: it is what got us here!
- And yes, we all participated: it's part of that story. Within in the realm of free will choice – there are the Laws of the One and there is also free will choice to do what we choose:
- Just remember there are ramifications in this realm. That's the key 'cos this is the realm of effects – what we think; therefore we are – it's that simple! That instant . . .

Things are happening so instantaneously now; it's about who we are. All the animals are calling it in: they feel it; they sense it; they know it: it's about the great balance that's shifting. . .

She just saw a sliver of the moon tonight slipping into first quarter – getting big again – waxing. What we don't know about the moon – much more gonna come out.

- This ? rocket – not sure where to take this, except to say we never needed to fly around in sex toys! it's about this merkaba vehicle.
- More and more what Dr Greer is bringing forth, about the lost century - never needed to touch a drop of oil. We've got all the energy we need – right here: THIS merkaba vehicle - it's the ticket home!

**T:** What did you mean, not needing to use a drop of oil?

**M/A:** the last 100 years playing around with these toys that only create more samsara and death instead of using what Tesla taught the people about the ether – the Light that is within us

**T:** What does the oil have to do with it?

**M/A:** they did not want to use Tesla energy – Mr Westinghouse, JP Morgan – she knows the rest of the story . . relating the oil to the corporations - about fossil fuel story

**T:** finally got what Mother was talking about ! ! ! They certainly took us south

**M/A:** whether or not folks know it – the asteroid which came in that caused the polar shift – pieces of Maldek – it's why we have an asteroid belt ! War is never the answer

**T:** blew up a nuke on MaldekQ

**M/A** TWO hydrogen nukes!

**T:** Yes reminds us of events: two cities on opposite sides of Maldek – one of the nukes was let loose due to some kind of natural event – and the other city thinking it was being attacked, sent THEIR nuke to the other side of the planet – blew each other up and the planet to smithereens – hence the asteroid belt and not a planet called Maldek

**M/A:** mistrusted each other like what is happening right now – Ukraine Blaze the Violet Fire! The story is: war is never the answer. All we are saying is give peace a chance

- Better go our way - miles to go before we sleep
- Gonna have a chat with His Holiness tonight -

**T:** it's at least 12 hours ahead of our time

**M/A:** it is indeed [tomorrow morning]

- Time for high tea!

**T:** you don't get tired, right?

**M/A:** No! Just another journey on the way to ascension – let go of all the dross: it's just 'stuff'

- The wisdom is within us: you wanna go into space- gotta go in through the heart . . . Look inside yourself

**T:** Cindi Loper and Josh Groben – the program she sees with no sound!

**M/A:** it's all about the heart

**T:** Cindi Loper called Rama in 2002; said she got her blessings; probably helping folks all over the place

**M/A:** changing the way life is on this planet to one way of Oneness – or have feathers or are blue or ping or whether they have antennae like nebula - it is about what's in the heart, the empathy for all life

**Both:** Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One – Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish – Adonai Adonai

**Rama Returns:** He was on The Dove, in one of the arboretums, talking to 3 birds that had rainbow colours; they were speaking about the return of Quetzalquatl at this time;

- it is time for the people on this earth to get to know the ascended masters who are showing up now – won't be like xenophobic exchanges as in the past
- We are all one family, as Aurora Ray says

**AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW** Howard Zinn – has gone over the rainbow – play a past recording  
**R: he's still here, saying it's time to end the war; he left in 2010, just after Obama got in**

**2022-11-25 Black Friday Special: Howard Zinn & Voices of a People's History of the United States**

[https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/25/black\\_friday\\_special\\_howard\\_zinn\\_voices](https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/25/black_friday_special_howard_zinn_voices)

**2022-11-25 "You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train": Remembering the People's Historian Howard Zinn at 100**

**Audio: 2022-11-25 [Josh Groban: An Evening of Harmony | PBS](#)**

<https://www.pbs.org/show/josh-groban-evening-harmony/>

**[Josh Groban: An Evening of Harmony | PBS](#)**

**Josh Groban:** An Evening of Harmony ... Join the global superstar for a concert of timeless songs and new music from his upcoming album Harmony. Songs include " ...



Full Episode | Josh Groban's Great Big Radio City Show

**Josh Groban speaks on why he thinks singing in choirs is great training for young singers and why he loves singing with other people today.**

#### **TRANSCRIPT**

You know, you've had a choir with you for a lot of this show. Yes.

And I know this is crazy, but I just happen to be reading a study about choirs... Tell me.

I know really well, first of all, they have a larger sense of community, people who sing in choirs, and better

general overall health than the public.

I believe it.

Tell me why, why?

Well, I mean, I, I look back very fondly on my time in my choir when I was a kid, and I tell people who are young singers, join a choir. It teaches you about, uh, it teaches you about relative pitch. You have to be, you have to be matching your partner because you can always go out and be, and just be in the spotlight and be a soloist, but you can't always listen sometimes, and it teaches you to listen. Um, it also, it, like you said, it forms a bond. It forms a community.

It's what I love about doing theater as well. But, um, in, in Japan, they call it 'Ikigai,' the sense of community and purpose and vitality.

It's a great word for it.

And I think there is a certain element of Ikigai in choir and being in a choir, you're, you're supporting each other and I think supporting each other, lower stress, and you can express yourself with a group of people. And, uh, you know. Yeah.

So it was fun for you too?

I love being a member of the choir when they come out and sing with me.

Are you kidding? It's my favorite thing.

Whenever we get to do a song where there's a choir that we're all lifting together. Uh, that's, that's my favorite thing. I love with duets too, because we're balancing off of each other and there's that, there's that support. Believe it or not, being a solo, being a soloist is really just the most lonely part of all of this.

Just give me more singers to sing with!

**NOTE: PLEASE GO TO THE WEBSITE TO LISTEN . . . IT WILL BE ON THE PODCAST, AS WELL.**

## INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

### 2022-11-25 Black Friday Special: Howard Zinn & Voices of a People's History of the United States

[https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/25/black\\_friday\\_special\\_howard\\_zinn\\_voices](https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/25/black_friday_special_howard_zinn_voices)

This year marks 100 years since the birth of the historian Howard Zinn. In 1980, Zinn published his classic work, "A People's History of the United States." The book would go on to sell over a million copies and change the way many look at history in America. We begin today's special with highlights from a production of Howard Zinn's "Voices of a People's History of the United States," where Zinn introduced dramatic readings from history. We hear Alfre Woodard read the words of labor activist Mother Jones and Howard's son Jeff Zinn read the words of an IWW poet and organizer Arturo Giovannitti.

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### Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Yes, today our Zinntennial. We spend the hour remembering Howard Zinn, the legendary historian, author, professor, playwright and activist. Howard Zinn was born 100 years ago, on August 24th, 1922, to working-class Jewish immigrant parents in Brooklyn. He died in 2010 at the age of 87, but his books continue to be read across the globe.

At 18 years old, Howard Zinn began working as a shipyard worker, then joined the Air Force, where he served as a bombardier in World War II. After witnessing the horrors of war, Howard Zinn went on to become a lifelong dissident and peace activist. He was active in the civil rights movement and other struggles for social justice. He taught at Spelman College in Atlanta, the historically Black college for women. He was fired for insubordination for standing up for student protesters. While at Spelman, he served on the executive committee of SNCC. That's the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

After being forced out of Spelman, Zinn became a professor at Boston University. In 1967, he published *Vietnam: The Logic of Withdrawal*. It was the first book on the war to call for immediate withdrawal, no conditions. A year later, he and Father Dan Berrigan traveled to North Vietnam to receive the first three U.S. prisoners of wars released by the North Vietnamese. When Dan Ellsberg needed a place to hide the Pentagon Papers before they were leaked to the press, he went to Howard Zinn and his late wife, Ros Zinn.

In 1980, Howard Zinn published his classic work, *A People's History of the United States*. The book would go on to sell over a million copies and change the way many look at history in America.

We begin today's show with highlights from a production of Howard Zinn's *Voices of a People's History of the United States*, where Howard Zinn introduced dramatic readings from history. We'll hear Alfre Woodard read the words of labor activist Mother Jones, and Howard's son Jeff Zinn read the words of an IWW poet and organizer, Arturo Giovannitti. But first, Howard Zinn.

**HOWARD ZINN:** The IWW, Industrial Workers of the World, was a radical labor organization of the early 20th century. It organized all workers — Black, white, men, women, native-born, foreign, skilled, unskilled — which the American Federation of Labor refused to do. Its goal was revolutionary: to take over the industrial system and run it for the benefit of the people. When immigrant women in the textile mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts, went on strike in 1912, they were met with police violence and judicial intimidation. The IWW poet and organizer Arturo Giovannitti was arrested on spurious charges for murder. Here is his speech to the jury, which found him innocent.

**ARTURO GIOVANNITTI:** [read by Jeff Zinn] Mr. Foreman and gentlemen of the Jury: It is the

first time in my life that I speak publicly in your wonderful language, and it is the most solemn moment in my life. ...

There has been brought only one side of this great industrial question, only the method and only the tactics. But what about ... the ethical part of the question? ... What about the better and nobler humanity where there shall be no more slaves, where no man will ever be obliged to go on strike in order to obtain fifty cents a week more, where children will not have to starve any more, where women no more will have to go and prostitute themselves ... where at last there will not be any more slaves, any more masters, but just one great family of friends and brothers.

They say you are free in this great and wonderful country. I say that politically you are, and my best compliments and congratulations. ... But I say you cannot be half free and half slave, and economically all the working class in the United States are as much slaves now as the Negroes were forty and fifty years ago; because the man that owns the tool where another man works, the man that owns the house where this man lives, the man that owns the factory where this man wants to go to work — that man owns and controls the bread that that man eats and therefore owns and controls his mind, his body, his heart and his soul. ...

I am twenty-nine years old — not quite ... I have a woman that loves me and that I love. I have a mother and father that are waiting for me. I have an ideal that is dearer to me than can be expressed or understood. And life has so many allurements and it is so nice and so bright and so wonderful that I feel the passion of living in my heart and I do want to live. ...

Whichever way you judge, gentlemen of the jury, I thank you.

**HOWARD ZINN:** In the year 1914, a thousand miners, with wives and children, who had gone on strike against the Rockefeller-owned coal mines in southern Colorado, were holding out in a tent colony near the tiny hamlet of Ludlow. One day in April, the National Guard, financed by Rockefeller, began pouring machine-gun fire into the tent colony, and then came down from the hills and set fire to the tents. The next day the bodies of eleven children and two women were found, suffocated and burned to death. This became known as the Ludlow Massacre. Mother Mary Jones, 82-year-old organizer for the mine workers, had come to Colorado to support the miners, and on the eve of their strike, as they gathered in the Opera House in Trinidad, she spoke to them.

**MOTHER JONES:** [read by Alfre Woodard] What would the coal in the mines be worth if you did not work to take it out? The time is ripe for you to stand like men. I know something about strikes. I didn't go into them yesterday. I was carried eighty-four miles and landed in jail by a United States marshal in the night because I was talking to a miners' meeting. The next morning I was brought to court and the judge said to me, "Did you read my injunction? Did you understand that the injunction told you not to look at the miners?" "As long as the Judge who is higher than you leaves me sight, I will look at anything I want to," said I. The old judge died soon after that and the injunction died with him. At another time when in the courtroom the bailiff said to me, "When you are addressing the court you must say 'Your Honor.'" "I don't know whether he has any or not," said I. Someone said to me, "You don't believe in charity work Mother." No I don't believe in charity; it is a vice. We need the upbuilding of justice to mankind; we don't need your charity, all we need is an opportunity to live like men and women in this country. I want you to pledge yourselves in this convention to stand as one solid army against the foes of human labor. Think of the thousands who are killed every day and there is no redress for it. We will fight until the mines are made secure and human life valued more than props. Look things in the face. Don't fear a governor; don't fear anybody. You pay the governor; he has the right to protect you. You are the biggest part of the population in the state. You create its wealth, so I say, "let the fight go on; if nobody else will keep on, I will."

**AMY GOODMAN:** That was Alfre Woodard reading the words of labor activist Mother Jones as part of a live reading of Howard Zinn's *Voices of a People's History of the United States*. Howard Zinn was born 100 years

ago, on August 24th, 1922. We'll continue with our Zinntennial after this break.

[break]

**AMY GOODMAN:** "Ludlow Massacre" by Woody Guthrie, about a Colorado militia gunning down coal strikers in 1914. Howard Zinn once said hearing the song was a defining moment for him and inspired him to research and tell stories left out of most history books.

## 2022-11-25 "You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train": Remembering the People's Historian Howard Zinn at 100

### Topics

- [Howard Zinn](#)
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In a special broadcast, we remember the legendary historian, author, professor, playwright and activist Howard Zinn, who was born 100 years ago this August. Zinn was a regular guest on Democracy Now!, from the start of the program in 1996 up until his death in 2010 at age 87. After witnessing the horrors of World War II as a bombardier, Zinn became a peace and justice activist who picketed with his students at Spelman College during the civil rights movement and joined in actions such as opposing the Vietnam War. He later spoke out against the U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. "I believe neutrality is impossible, because the world is already moving in certain directions. Wars are going on. Children are starving," Zinn said in a 2005 interview. "To be neutral ... is to collaborate with whatever is going on, to allow it to happen."

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### Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

**AMY GOODMAN:** This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org), *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, as we continue with our Zinntennial, celebrating the life and legacy of the late Howard Zinn, born 100 years ago, in 1922. Howard Zinn was a regular guest on *Democracy Now!*, from the time we went on the air in 1996 up until his death. In 2005, he [joined](#) us in our firehouse studio at DCTV, Downtown Community Television, in Lower Manhattan.

**AMY GOODMAN:** It is great to have you with us.

**HOWARD ZINN:** Well, it's nice of you to invite me. I was worried.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Well, you just came from Bedford Hills Correctional Facility?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Well, actually, yesterday afternoon I spoke at the Bedford Hills, euphemistically called, Correctional Facility — they hardly correct anything, but — spoke to prisoners there, women prisoners, mostly prisoners of color. I spoke to them yesterday afternoon before I gave this talk last night at Manhattanville College.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And what did you talk about with the women?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Well, they had been using my book. They have classes. They're using my book, *A People's History of the United States*. And I talked to them about history, about doing history, about why I did history the way I did, why I did unneutral history and how I came to do it. And I told them something about my life, and, of course, I always like to talk about that, you know.

And then they asked a lot of questions, a very lively, enthusiastic, excited group. I mean, if every teacher in the country had a class like that, you know, they would be inspired. And it's wonderful — and I've always found this to be true — wonderful and always amazing when you talk to prisoners, who should be the last ones to be up and optimistic and in good spirits, but it's always there. It's actually encouraging, you know, and, of course, troubling to know that these people, these remarkable people, are being kept in prison, you know, very often, most of the time, for nonviolent crimes, and kept there for long periods of time. It's a sort of sad commentary on American society that we have people in Washington who are free, and these people are in prison.

**AMY GOODMAN:** You talked about being a teacher, but, Howard Zinn, the places you were — where you did teach — well, Spelman, you were fired, and Boston University, you were almost fired.

**HOWARD ZINN:** Oh, are you trying to make me out as a troublemaker?

**AMY GOODMAN:** What happened to you at Spelman?

**HOWARD ZINN:** At Spelman, I got involved with my students in the actions that were going on in the South, the sit-ins, the demonstrations, the picket lines. I was supporting my students. And this was the first Black president of Spelman College, a very conservative institution. He wasn't happy about me joining the students in all of these things, wasn't happy about a lot of things that they did. But he couldn't do anything about it. But when I — the students came back from, you might say, from jail and then rebelled against the campus regulations and the restrictions on them, and I supported them, that was too much.

**AMY GOODMAN:** During the civil rights years?

**HOWARD ZINN:** This was — yeah, these were during the civil rights years. And so, you know, he was very unhappy with the fact that I was supporting the students who were rebelling against the paternalism and the authoritarianism on that campus.

**AMY GOODMAN:** They were women students?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Yeah, these were Black women students. And, you know, the movement brought them out of this little sort of convent-like atmosphere of Spelman College and out into the world.

**AMY GOODMAN:** The author Alice Walker was one of those students?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Yeah, Alice Walker was one of my students. Marian Wright Edelman, the head of the Children's Defense Fund now in Washington, she was one of my students. I'm very proud of those students I had at Spelman. And yeah, Marian Wright Edelman was in jail, and Alice Walker was in jail. And yeah, it was a great moment.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Now, Boston University was many years later. Why did you almost get thrown out of there?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Why did I almost get thrown out of Boston University? We had a strike. Faculty went on strike. Secretaries went on strike. They settled with the faculty after what was a

successful strike, but not with the secretaries. And so, I and some other faculty refused to cross the secretaries' picket line. And five of us who refused to do that were threatened with firing, even though all of us had tenure. And so it was a long struggle, but we won.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Going back before both of your tenures as professor, you were a bombardier in World War II.

**HOWARD ZINN:** That's true, yes.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And you talk about your final bombing run, not over Japan, not over Germany, but over France.

**HOWARD ZINN:** Yeah. Well, we thought our bombing missions were over. The war was about to come to an end. This was in April of 1945. You may remember the war ended in early May 1945. This was a few weeks before the war was going to be over, and everybody knew it was going to be over, and our armies were past France into Germany, but there was a little pocket of German soldiers hanging around this little town of Royan on the Atlantic coast of France, and the Air Force decided to bomb them — 1,200 heavy bombers, and I was in one of them, flew over this little town of Royan and dropped napalm — first use of napalm in the European theater.

And we don't know how many people we killed, how many people were terribly burned as a result of what we did. But I did it, like most soldiers do, unthinkingly, mechanically, thinking we're on the right side, they're on the wrong side, and therefore we can do whatever we want, and it's OK. And only afterward, only really after the war, did I — when I was reading about Hiroshima from John Hersey and reading the stories of the survivors of Hiroshima and what they went through, only then did I begin to think about the human effects of bombing. Only then did I begin to think about what it meant to human beings on the ground when bombs were dropped on them, because as a bombardier, I was flying at 30,000 feet, six miles high, couldn't hear screams, couldn't see blood. And this is modern warfare.

In modern warfare, soldiers fire, they drop bombs, and they have no notion, really, of what is happening to the human beings that they're firing on. Everything is done at a distance. This enables terrible atrocities to take place. And I think, reflecting back on that bombing raid, and thinking of that in Hiroshima and all the other raids on civilian cities and the killing of huge numbers of civilians in German and Japanese cities, the killing of 100,000 people in Tokyo in one night of firebombing, all of that made me realize war, even so-called good wars against fascism, like World War II, wars don't solve any fundamental problems, and they always poison everybody on both sides. They poison the minds and souls of everybody on both sides. We're seeing that now in Iraq, where the minds of our soldiers are being poisoned by being an occupying army in a land where they are not wanted. And the results are terrible.

**AMY GOODMAN:** You learned you dropped napalm on this French village?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Well, we didn't — actually didn't know what it was. They said, "Oh, you're not going to have the usually 500-pound demolition bombs. You're going to carry one — you're going to carry 30 100-pound canisters of jellied gasoline." We had no idea what that was, but it was napalm.

**AMY GOODMAN:** You went to that village later?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Later, I went, yeah. Later, I visited that village, about 10 years after the war. And I went to the library, which had been destroyed and which was now rebuilt, and I dug out records of the survivors and what they had written about the bombing. And I wrote a kind of essay about the bombing of Royan, which appears — where does it appear? — it appears in my book *The Zinn Reader* and also in my book *The Politics of History*. But it was — for me, it was a very important experience, a very great sobering lesson about so-called good wars.

**AMY GOODMAN:** You learned when you were there on the ground many years later who had died?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Well, I — you know, I spoke to people who had survived that and whose family members had died. And they were very bitter about the bombing. And, you know, they attributed it to all sorts of things, the desire to try out a new weapon. It's amazing how many things are done in a war just to try out new weapons. You know, maybe one of the reasons for dropping the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were to see what this does to human beings. Human beings become sacrifices in the desire to develop new military technology. And I think that was one of those instances.

**AMY GOODMAN:** We're talking to historian Howard Zinn, here in our firehouse studio in Chinatown, just blocks from where the towers of the World Trade Center once stood. You went to Vietnam, to North Vietnam, with Dan Berrigan?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Yeah, yeah.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Why?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Why? Well, this was early 1968. This was the time of the Tet Offensive, also the time of the Tet holiday, the Vietnamese holiday. And the North Vietnamese decided they wanted to release the first three airmen prisoners who had been shot down over North Vietnam. And they wanted to release them in the custody of not the American government, but the peace movement. So Daniel Berrigan, poet, priest, whom I had never met before, he and I traveled together to Hanoi, to North Vietnam, to pick up these three American airmen who were being released by the North Vietnamese.

And then we spent some time in Hanoi and in the surrounding area, visited bombed-out areas, visited little villages that had been jet bombed in the middle of the night, a million miles from any possible military target. And that — we were being bombed — Vietnam was being bombed every night. Every day we were going into air raid shelters. Every night Daniel Berrigan would write a poem about what had happened that day. And, you know —

**AMY GOODMAN:** What do you say to those, then and now, before the invasion, who would go to Iraq, those who went to North Vietnam, when they would be called traitors, giving comfort to the enemy?

**HOWARD ZINN:** You mean Americans who went to North Vietnam? You mean like Jane Fonda and so many others who went to North Vietnam?

**AMY GOODMAN:** And Iraq before. I mean even people like Congressman McDermott of Seattle, reporters saying that they should resign.

**HOWARD ZINN:** Oh, people have gone to Iraq. And, I mean, what about — you know, there's people in *Voices in the Wilderness*, Americans who went to Iraq and violating the U.S. sanctions, bringing food and medicine, you know. And the whole business of being traitors, you know, I think there's a whole — there's somehow some wrongheaded notion of what treason is and what patriotism is, and there's some notion that if you disobey the orders of your government or the laws of your government, you're being treasonous. But I believe the government is being treasonous and the government is being unpatriotic when the government violates the fundamental rights of human beings, when the government invades another country, a country that has not attacked it, a country that has not threatened it. When our government invades another country and drops bombs and kills huge numbers of people, and then Americans have the guts to go to that country and bring people food and medicine or go to see what is going on, as many Americans did when they went to Vietnam, I think these are the most patriotic Americans.

And, you know, if you define patriotism as obedience to the government, then you are, I think, following a kind of totalitarian principle, because that's the principle of a totalitarian state, that you do what the government tells you to do. And democracy means that the government is an instrument of the people. This is the Declaration of Independence. Governments are artificial entities set up in order to preserve the rights, equal right to life, liberty, pursuit of happiness of people. When the government violates those rights, it is the duty of people to defy that government. That is patriotism.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Howard Zinn, you called your autobiography *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*. Why?

**HOWARD ZINN:** Well, it came from — I stole it from myself. That is, I used to say that to my classes at the beginning of every class. I wanted to be honest with them about the fact that they were not entering a class where the teacher would be neutral. It was not going to be a class where the teacher spent a half a year or year with the students, and they would have no idea where the teacher stood on the important issues. This is not going to be a neutral class, I said. I don't believe in neutrality. I believe neutrality is impossible, because the world is already moving in certain directions. Wars are going on. Children are starving. And to be neutral, to pretend to neutrality, to not take a stand in a situation like that, is to collaborate with whatever is going on, to allow it to happen. I did not want to be a collaborator with what was happening. I wanted to enter into history. I wanted to play a role. I wanted my students to play a role. I wanted us to intercede. I wanted my history to intercede and to take a stand on behalf of peace, on behalf of a racial equality or sexual equality. And so I wanted my students to know that right from the beginning, know you can't be neutral on a moving train.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Were you surprised by the election of President Bush, November 2004?

**HOWARD ZINN:** A little. A little. That is, I thought that maybe by then, perhaps there would be enough understanding about the deception, the hypocrisy of the U.S. government, just enough to dethrone Bush, but I say only a little surprised, because on the other hand, I knew that John Kerry was not the candidate to represent the feelings of the American people. By then, by the time of the election, at least half of the American people were already against the war. And now they faced an election where 100% of the candidates were for the war. And so, they had nobody to vote for. And so, with nobody to vote for, with no real alternative, of course, 40% of the voting population did not vote.

And people ought to remember this. You know, Bush did not win overwhelmingly. You know, he won by one or two percentage points. And if you consider how many people voted for him against the voting population, you know, he got, you know, maybe 30% of the voting population. But it was a commentary on the pitiful showing of the Democratic Party, its failure to be a true opposition party in this country, and I think maybe a wake-up call to Americans to try to create a new political alternative to a political system that is really a one-party system, and it is quite corrupt.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Professor Howard Zinn in our firehouse studio in 2005. The legendary historian, writer, professor, playwright and activist was born 100 years ago, in 1922. On October 21st, 2001, Howard Zinn gave a major [address](#) at the University of Vermont in Burlington. It was just over a month after the 9/11 attacks and two weeks after the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, beginning what became the longest war in U.S. history. U.S. troops remained until August 2021. Today the Taliban are back in power. This is Howard Zinn in 2001.

**HOWARD ZINN:** If you think what we're doing in Afghanistan is not very much, you know, consider that there are hundreds of thousands of people in Afghanistan who are fleeing the cities and towns in which they live. Have you seen the pictures of Afghan refugees? It started as soon as Bush promised to bomb, because there are certain American promises they can count on, you see, and that's one of them. And the refugees immediately began moving. And so you see the pictures of these families with all their possessions, or as many of their possessions they carry

on the backs and their wagons, and their kids, and hundreds of thousands of them. So this isn't a small thing. This isn't just, "Oh, we're killing a few people, and that's a price we're willing to pay." We are terrorizing Afghanistan. I'm not exaggerating.

The people who are — the people who are in Kabul — the people who are in Kabul — the people who are in Kabul and people in other places in Afghanistan have to live with the fear of these bombs. Have you lived under bombs? Do you know what it's — can you imagine what it's like? And you're in a very backward, technologically — right? — undeveloped country, and there are these monster machines coming over with this ferocious noise and the lights and the flashing and the explosions. And it's — yes, we're terrorizing people in Afghanistan. And it's not — it's not right to respond to the fact that we have been terrorized, as we have, not right to respond to that by terrorizing other people. Absolutely wrong, you see. You know.

And furthermore, it's not going to help. And you could say, "Well, maybe it may be worth doing, because this will end terrorism." I mean, how much common sense does it take to know that you cannot end terrorism by indiscriminately just throwing bombs on Afghanistan. And then, of course, you get reports: "We have now destroyed three of their camps. We've destroyed four" — who are you kidding? How many hours does it take to set up a training camp? How easy it is to move from one place to another?

I mean, the history of bombing is mostly a history of futility. Yes, really. You know, there's a book that came out recently called *A History of Bombing*. *A History of Bombing*. I was a bombardier. And, sure, the technology has improved, although it was claimed — even then, it was claimed our bombs are smart, because we're using this special bombsight, this Norden bombsight. People really believed that. Even we believed that, we who were using the bombsight, because we would bomb at 11,000 feet or 4,000 feet, and we got pretty close to the target. But then, when we flew on missions, we were bombing at 30,000 feet, and the bombs went all over the place and killed an awful lot of people, all sorts of people. You know, didn't matter.

I say it didn't matter, because these people were ciphers. Who were these people? I didn't even see them. You bomb, you bomb another country, you don't see these people. You're bombing from high altitudes. You know, our planes are bombing at high altitudes because they want to escape anti-aircraft fire, right? No, you don't see anything on the ground. You see flashes, and you see explosions and may take pictures, but you don't — you don't hear screams. You don't see blood. You don't see severed limbs. You don't see any of that.

We saw that in New York. We saw those scenes in New York. They horrified us. We saw people in panic, running, running from that — those explosions, that enormous pile of debris, you know, and we were horrified. These were real people to us. But then, if we bomb other countries, those people are not real to us.

One of the things I thought of after I got over my initial horror at what happened in New York, I thought, "Hey, that's what it must have been like when I was bombing in Europe." That's what it must have been like, and I didn't even know it, because these people were ciphers to me, you see. And then I thought, "Maybe to these terrorists, that's what it is for them." Oh, 6,000 human beings. You know, no, they have a mission. They have a goal. No. They're not — they're not human beings to terrorists. And people in other parts of the world have not been human beings to us.

If there's anything we might get out of this experience, it's that we might take that horror that we have felt looking at those scenes in New York, and compassion that we have felt for the people who endured this and their families, and extend this to people in other parts of the world who have been enduring this — enduring this for a very long time. And that does mean — that does mean examining the United States and our policies.

You know, if you — because, you know, when you do that, when you suggest that, say, "You

know what? I think maybe we ought to look at ourselves and our policies," people say, "Oh, you're justifying what happened." No, no, absolutely not. To explain is not to justify. But if you don't want to explain anything, you will never learn anything. So you have to — you have to understand, you have to explain, without justifying.

And you have to look — yes, you have to dig down and see if you can figure out what is at the root of this terrorism, because there is something at the root besides, you know, irrational, murderous feeling. And, yes, this was murderous, fanatical feeling. But these were not simply madmen, who just — you know, there are people, like, who just go berserk and kill everybody in sight, right? We know that, because we've seen that in our country, when somebody just — you know, something goes haywire in them, and they just go wild. And they — no, it's not that. Terrorism is not that sort of thing. There's something underneath that, you know, that fanaticism, which may have a core of truth to it. That is, there's something in the core of belief of these terrorists which may also be at the core of belief of millions of other people in the world who are not terrorists, who are angry at American policy but who are not fanatic enough to go and kill Americans because they're angry at our policy, but who are capable of doing that if they are even more aroused, and even if we begin even doing more things to anger them. There's an — you might say there's a reservoir of possible terrorists among all those people in the world who have suffered as a result of U.S. foreign policy.

Now, I don't know if you think I'm exaggerating when I say there are millions of people in the world who have suffered as a result of U.S. foreign policy. But, yes, there are. And Bush, at a recent press conference, said something like, "I don't understand why these people hate us." No, I don't — you know, said, "We are good." That's what he said. "We are good." You know, look at me. I'm good. You know. Well, sometimes the United States is good. Yes, there are a lot of good things about the United States. And yes, there are times when the United States is good. And then there are times, unfortunately many times, too many times, when the United States has been bad, evil really, and has carried out policies that have resulted in the deaths of, yes, millions of people.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Howard Zinn, speaking in October 2001, just two weeks after the U.S. invaded Afghanistan. We'll hear more from Professor Zinn after this break.

[break]

**AMY GOODMAN:** This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org), *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, as we continue our Zinntennial, as we continue to remember the legendary historian Howard Zinn 100 years after his birth in 1922. In 2006, we featured a [speech](#) Professor Zinn delivered in Madison, Wisconsin, as he received the Haven Center's Award for Lifetime Contribution to Critical Scholarship. His lecture was titled "The Uses of History and the War on Terrorism."

**HOWARD ZINN:** I was talking to my barber the other day, because we always discuss world politics. And he's totally politically unpredictable, as most barbers are, you see. He said, "Howard," he said, "you know, you and I disagree on many things, but on one thing we agree: War solves nothing." And I thought, "Yeah." It's not hard for people to grasp that.

And there again, history is useful. We've had a history of war after war after war after war. What have they solved? What have they done? Even World War II, the "good war," the war in which I volunteered, the war in which I dropped bombs, the war after which, you know, I received a letter from General Marshall, general of generals, a letter addressed personally to me, and to 16 million others, in which he said, "We've won the war. It will be a new world." Well, of course, it wasn't a new world. It hasn't been a new world, war after war after war.

There are certain — I came out of that war, the war in which I had volunteered, the war in which I was an enthusiastic bombardier, I came out of that war with certain ideas, which just developed gradually at the end of the war, ideas about war. One, that war corrupts everybody who engages in it. War poisons everybody who engages in it. You start off as the good guys, as we did in World War II. They're the bad guys. They're the fascists. What could be worse? So

they're the bad guys, we're the good guys. And as the war goes on, the good guys begin behaving like the bad guys. You can trace this back to the Peloponnesian War. You can trace it back to the good guy, the Athenians, and the bad guys, the Spartans. And after a while, the Athenians become ruthless and cruel, like the Spartans.

And we did that in World War II. We, after Hitler committed his atrocities, we committed our atrocities — you know, our killing of 600,000 civilians in Japan, our killing of probably an equal number of civilians in Germany. These, they weren't Hitler, they weren't Tojo. They weren't — no, they were just ordinary people, like we are ordinary people living in a country that is a marauding country, and they were living in countries that were marauding countries, and they were caught up in whatever it was and afraid to speak up. And I don't know, I came to the conclusion, yes, war poisons everybody.

And war — this is an important thing to keep in mind, that when you go to war against a tyrant — and this was one of the claims: "Oh, we're going to get rid of Saddam Hussein," which was, of course, nonsense. They didn't — did our government care that Saddam Hussein tyrannized his own people? We helped him tyrannize his people. We helped him gas the Kurds. We helped him accumulate weapons of mass destruction, really.

But when you go to war against a tyrant, the people you kill in the war are the victims of the tyrant. The people we killed in Germany were the victims of Hitler. The people we killed in Japan were the victims of the Japan Imperial Army, you know. And the people who die in wars are more and more and more people who are not in the military. You may know this about the different ratio of civilian-to-military deaths in war, how in World War I, 10 military dead for one civilian dead; in World War II, it was 50-50, half military, half civilian; in Vietnam, it was 70% civilian and 30% military; and in the wars since then, it's 80% and 85% civilian.

I became friends a few years ago with an Italian war surgeon named Gino Strada. He spent 10 years, 15 years doing surgery on war victims all over the world. And he wrote a book about it, *Green Parrots: Diary of a War Surgeon*. He said in all the patients that he operated on in Iraq and Afghanistan and everywhere, 85% of them were civilians, one-third of them, children. If you understand, and if people understand, and if you spread the word of this understanding, that whatever is told to you about war and how we must go to war, and whatever the threat is or whatever the goal is — a democracy or liberty — it will always be a war against children. They're the ones who will die in large numbers.

So, war — well, Einstein said this after World War I. He said, "War cannot be humanized. It can only be abolished." War has to be abolished, you know. And it's — I know it's a long shot. I understand that. But you have to — when something's a long shot, but it has to be done, you have to start doing it. Just as the ending of slavery in this country in the 1830s was a really long shot, but people stuck at it, and it took 30 years, but slavery was done away with. And we can see this again and again. So, we have a job to do. We have lots of things to do.

One of the things we can learn from history is that history is not only a history of things inflicted on us by the powers that be. History is also a history of resistance. It's a history of people who endure tyranny for decades, but who ultimately rise up and overthrow the dictator. We've seen this in country after country, surprise after surprise. Rulers who seem to have total control, they suddenly wake up one day, and there are a million people in the streets, and they pack up and leave. This has happened in the Philippines, in Yemen, all over, in Nepal. Million people in the streets, and then the ruler has to get out of the way. So, this is what we're aiming for in this country.

Everything we do is important. Every little thing we do, every picket line we walk on, every letter we write, every act of civil disobedience we engage in, any recruiter that we talk to, any parent that we talk to, any GI that we talk to, any young person that we talk to, anything we do in class, outside of class, everything we do in the direction of a different world is important, even though at the moment they seem futile, because that's how change comes about. Change comes

about when millions of people do little things, which at certain points in history come together, and then something good and something important happens.

Thank you.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Legendary historian Howard Zinn, speaking in 2006. Well, three years later, in May of 2009, just a year before he died, Professor Zinn [joined](#) us in the *Democracy Now!* studio as he launched the paperback edition of *A Young People's History of the United States*. I asked him if he thought his retelling of history about Columbus and other traditional heroes was suitable for children.

**HOWARD ZINN:** It's true that people have asked that question again and again. You know, should we tell kids that Columbus, whom they have been told was a great hero, that Columbus mutilated Indians and kidnapped them and killed them in pursuit of gold? Should we tell people that Theodore Roosevelt, who is held up as one of our great presidents, was really a warmonger who loved military exploits and who congratulated an American general who committed a massacre in the Philippines? Should we tell young people that?

And I think the answer is: We should be honest with young people; we should not deceive them. We should be honest about the history of our country. And we should be not only taking down the traditional heroes, like Andrew Jackson and Theodore Roosevelt, but we should be giving young people an alternate set of heroes.

Instead of Theodore Roosevelt, tell them about Mark Twain. Mark Twain — well, Mark Twain, everybody learns about as the author of *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*, but when we go to school, we don't learn about Mark Twain as the vice president of the Anti-Imperialist League. We aren't told that Mark Twain denounced Theodore Roosevelt for approving this massacre in the Philippines. No.

We want to give young people ideal figures like Helen Keller. And I remember learning about Helen Keller. Everybody learns about Helen Keller, you know, a disabled person who overcame her handicaps and became famous. But people don't learn in school and young people don't learn in school what we want them to learn when we do books like *A Young People's History of the United States*, that Helen Keller was a socialist. She was a labor organizer. She refused to cross a picket line that was picketing a theater showing a play about her.

And so, there are these alternate heroes in American history. There's Fannie Lou Hamer and Bob Moses. There are the heroes of the civil rights movement. There are a lot of people who are obscure, who are not known. We have — in this *Young People's History*, we have a young hero who was sitting on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, refused to leave the front of the bus. And that was before Rosa Parks. I mean, Rosa Parks is justifiably famous for refusing to leave her seat, and she got arrested, and that was the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and really the beginning of a great movement in the South. But this 15-year-old girl did it first. And so, we have a lot of — we are trying to bring a lot of these obscure people back into the forefront of our attention and inspire young people to say, "This is the way to live."

**AMY GOODMAN:** Howard Zinn in the *Democracy Now!* studio in 2009 as he launched the paperback edition of *A Young People's History of the United States*. He died unexpectedly the next year, in January of 2010. We end today's show with one of Howard Zinn's last public appearances. He [spoke](#) in November 2009 at Boston University.

**HOWARD ZINN:** When I was discharged from the Army, from the Air Force, I got a letter from General Marshall. He was the general of generals. He was sending a letter, not a personal letter to me — "Dear Howie..." No. A letter that was sent to 16 million men who had served in the Armed Forces, some women, too. And the letter was something like this: "We've won the war. Congratulations for your service. It will be a new world." It wasn't a new world. And we know it hasn't been a new world since World War II. War after war after war after war, and 50 million people were dead in that war to end all wars, to end fascism and dictatorship and militarism. No.

So, yes, I came to a conclusion that war cannot be tolerated, no matter what we're told. And if we think that there are good wars and that, therefore, well, maybe this is a good war, I wanted to examine the so-called good wars, the holy wars, and — yeah, and take a good look at them and think again about the phenomenon of war and come to the conclusion, well, yes, war cannot be tolerated, no matter what we're told, no matter what tyrant exists, what border has been crossed, what aggression has taken place. It's not that we're going to be passive in the face of tyranny or aggression, no, but we'll find ways other than war to deal with whatever problems we have, because war is inevitably — inevitably — the indiscriminate massive killing of huge numbers of people. And children are a good part of those people. Every war is a war against children.

So it's not just getting rid of Saddam Hussein, if we think about it. Well, we got rid of Saddam Hussein. In the course of it, we killed huge numbers of people who had been victims of Saddam Hussein. When you fight a war against a tyrant, who do you kill? You kill the victims of the tyrant. Anyway, all this — all this was simply to make us think again about war and to think, you know, we're at war now, right? In Iraq, in Afghanistan and sort of in Pakistan, since we're sending rockets over there and killing innocent people in Pakistan. And so, we should not accept that.

We should look for a peace movement to join. Really, look for some peace organization to join. It will look small at first, and pitiful and helpless, but that's how movements start. That's how the movement against the Vietnam War started. It started with handfuls of people who thought they were helpless, thought they were powerless. But remember, this power of the people on top depends on the obedience of the people below. When people stop obeying, they have no power. When workers go on strike, huge corporations lose their power. When consumers boycott, huge business establishments have to give in. When soldiers refuse to fight, as so many soldiers did in Vietnam, so many deserters, so many fraggings, acts of violence by enlisted men against officers in Vietnam, B-52 pilots refusing to fly bombing missions anymore, war can't go on. When enough soldiers refuse, the government has to decide we can't continue. So, yes, people have the power. If they begin to organize, if they protest, if they create a strong enough movement, they can change things. That's all I want to say.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Historian Howard Zinn, speaking in 2009, just months before his death. Northwestern professor Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor has written, "We need Howard Zinn now more than ever. Not for the sake of romance or to construct another hero in history. We need his insights, his politics, and his commitment to the struggle for a better world."

And that does it for our Zinntennial celebrating the historian Howard Zinn, born 100 years ago, in 1922. Special thanks to Mike Burke, Neil Shibata and Brendan Allen. *Democracy Now!* is produced with Renée Feltz, Mike Burke, Deena Guzder, Messiah Rhodes, Nermeen Shaikh, María Taracena, Charina Nadura, Sam Alcott, Tey-Marie Astudillo, John Hamilton, Robby Karran, Hany Massoud and Mary Conlon. Our executive director is Julie Crosby. Special thanks to Becca Staley, Jon Randolph, Paul Powell, Mike Di Filippo, Miguel Nogueira, Hugh Gran, Denis Moynihan, David Prude and Dennis McCormick. I'm Amy Goodman. Thanks so much for joining us.