

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF

A GRAPHIC ADAPTATION

AMERICAN EMPIRE



HOWARD ZINN

AUTHOR OF *A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES*

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HISTORY
OF
AMERICAN
EMPIRE

A GRAPHIC ADAPTATION

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PROLOGUE



"We can all feel a terrible anger at whoever, in their insane idea that this would help their cause, killed thousands of innocent people. But what do we do with that anger? Do we react with panic, strike out violently and blindly just to show how tough we are?"



The images on television were heartbreaking: people on fire leaping to their deaths from a hundred stories up;



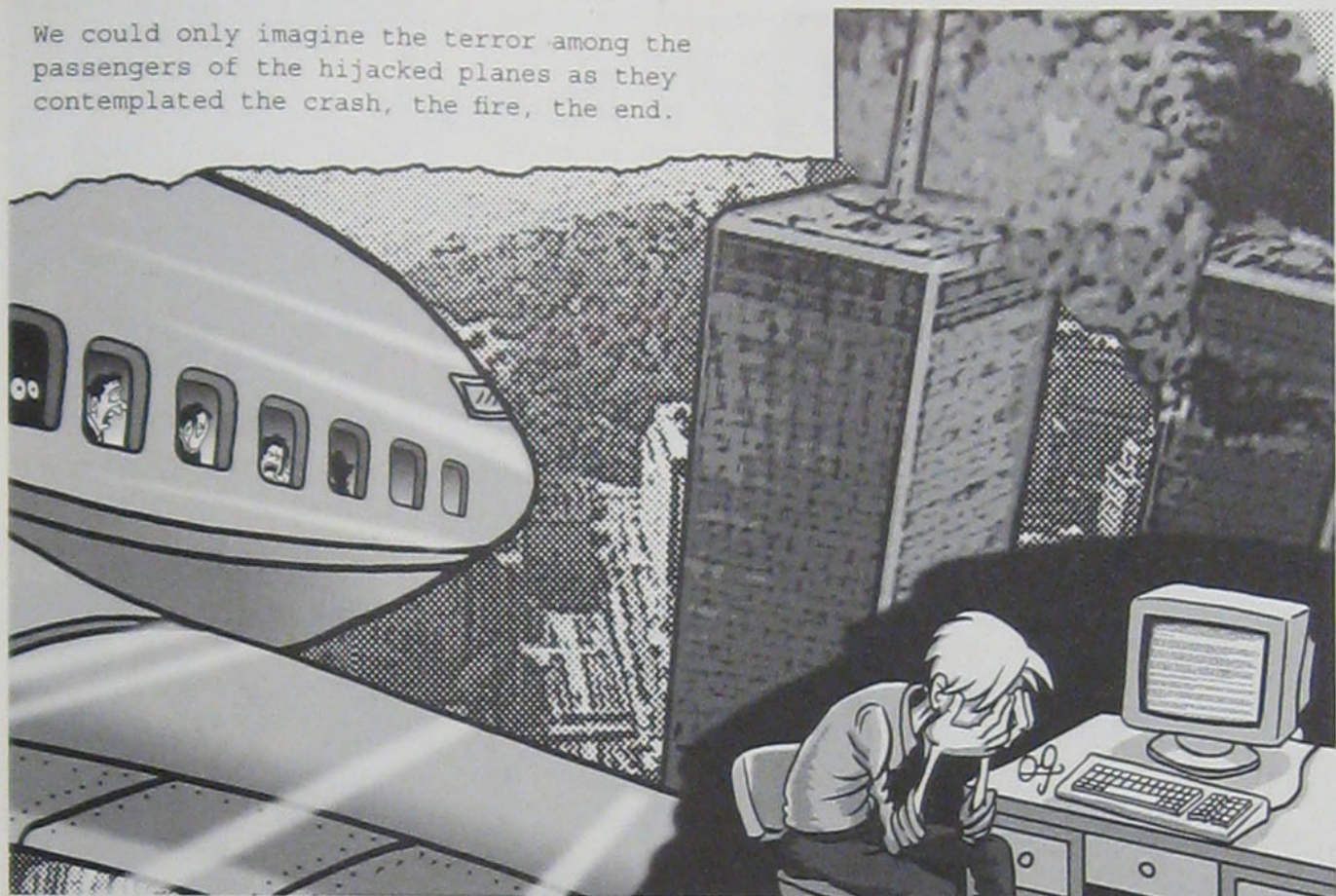
people in panic racing from the scene in clouds of dust and smoke.



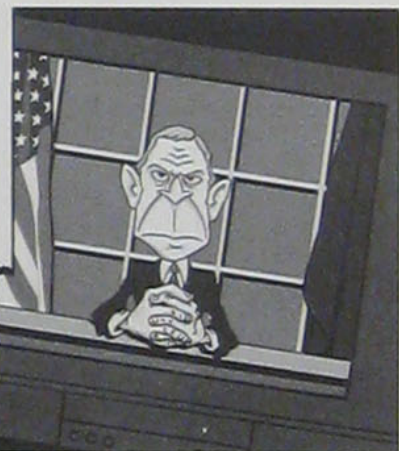
We knew there must be thousands of human beings buried under a mountain of debris.



We could only imagine the terror among the passengers of the hijacked planes as they contemplated the crash, the fire, the end.

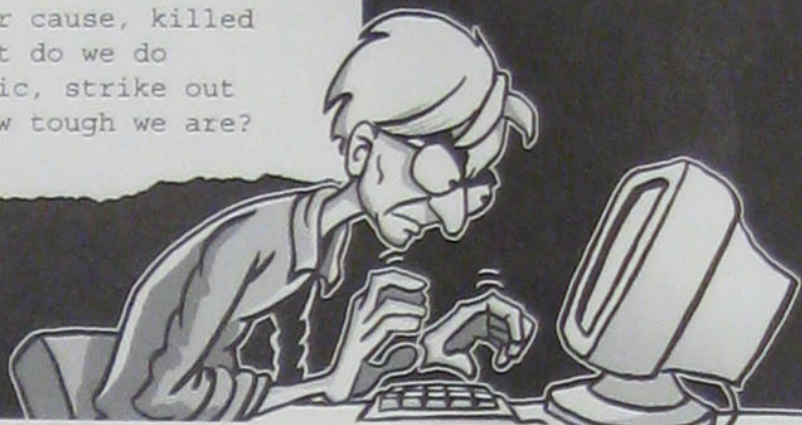


Then our political leaders came on television, and I was horrified and sickened again. They spoke of retaliation, of vengeance, of punishment. We are at war, they said. And I thought...



...THEY HAVE LEARNED NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, from the history of the twentieth century, from a hundred years of retaliation, vengeance, war, a hundred years of terrorism and counterterrorism, of violence met with violence in an unending cycle of stupidity.

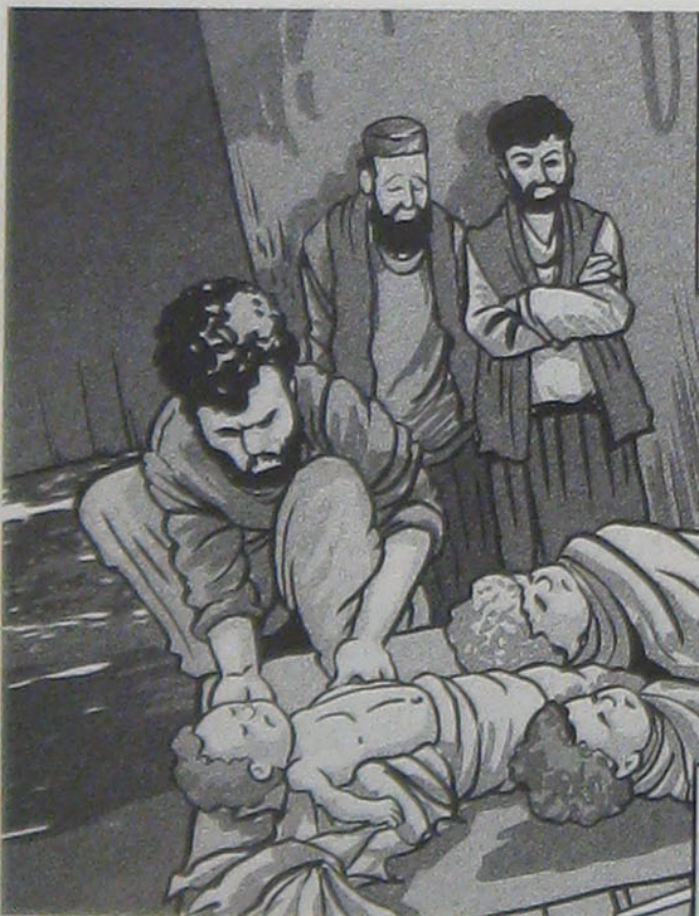
We can all feel a terrible anger at whoever, in their insane idea that this would help their cause, killed thousands of innocent people. But what do we do with that anger? Do we react with panic, strike out violently and blindly just to show how tough we are?



"We shall make no distinction," the president proclaimed, "between terrorists and countries that harbor terrorists."



So now we are bombing Afghanistan and inevitably killing innocent people because it is in the nature of bombing (and I say this as a former Air Force bombardier) to be indiscriminate, to "make no distinction."

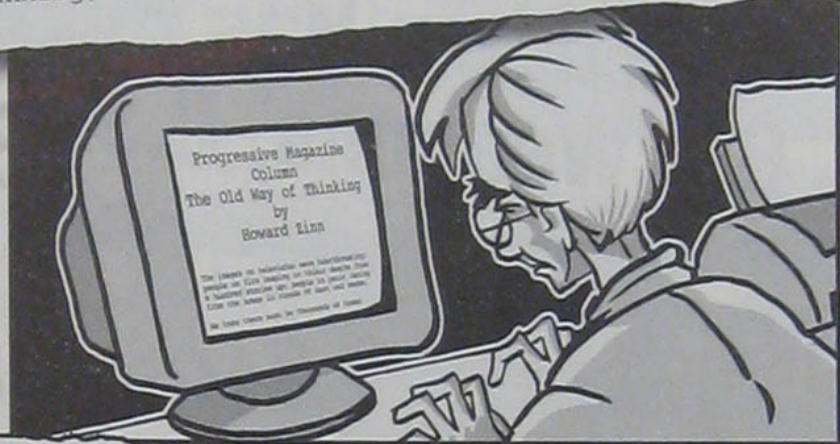


We are committing terrorism in order to "send a message" to terrorists.

It Seems to Me Howard Zinn

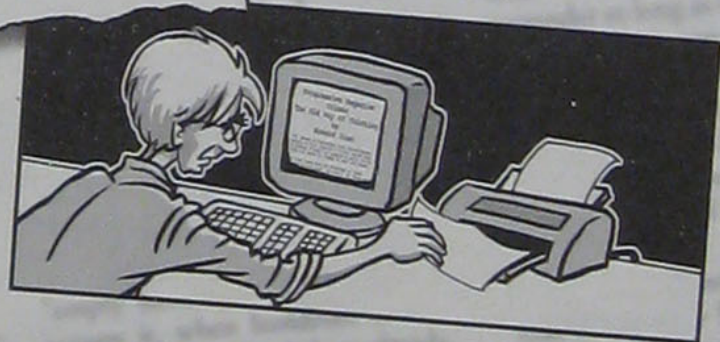
The Old Way of Thinking

We have done that before. It is the old way of thinking, the old way of acting. It has never worked.



In Vietnam, we terrorized peasant villages with bombing attacks, using napalm and cluster bombs. We supported dictators and death squads in Chile and El Salvador, Guatemala, and Haiti. In Iraq, more than 500,000 children died as a result of economic sanctions the United States insisted on.

We need new ways of thinking. We need to think about the resentment felt by people all over the world who have been victims of American military action.



We need to decide that we will not go to war regardless of the reasons conjured up by the politicians and the news media.

Bush Links Saddam to Al Qaeda

Saddam Has Nukes and Bio Weapons, U.S. Tells U.N.

SPECIAL EDITION

At 9:33 last night the battle for Iraq began

WAR

ONE DOLL

BAGHDAD BOMBED; DESERT SKIRMISHES STRETCH 350 MILES

Heavy Strikes on Iraqi Capital —
No 'Timetable,' Says Bush

By PATRICK S. TIERNEY

UNITED STATES — The United States and its allies have launched a massive air and ground assault on Iraq, marking the start of a new phase in the conflict.

The Globe

Baghdad falls

Baghdad falls to coalition forces; US warns that war not over

INSTEAD OF CREATING A NEW WAY OF THINKING, OUR GOVERNMENT USED 9/11 AS AN EXCUSE FOR ANOTHER RAMPAGE OF EMPIRE!



IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT OUR INVASIONS OF AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ ARE NOT UNIQUE EVENTS. THEY ARE PART OF A CONTINUING PATTERN OF AMERICAN BEHAVIOR.



TRUE, WE LIBERATED AFGHANISTAN FROM TALIBAN RULE BUT NOT FROM US! WE LIBERATED IRAQ FROM SADDAM HUSSEIN BUT NOT FROM US!

JUST AS IN 1898, WE LIBERATED CUBA FROM SPANISH TYRANNY BUT NOT FROM US.

THROUGHOUT U.S. HISTORY, OUR MILITARY HAS BEEN USED NOT FOR MORAL PURPOSES BUT TO EXPAND ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND MILITARY POWER.



U.S. EXPANSION BEGAN IN 1823 WITH THE *MONROE DOCTRINE*, WHICH DECLARED THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE. IT CONTINUED WITH *MANIFEST DESTINY* - THE CONVICTION THAT THE U.S. WAS DESTINED TO RULE THE CONTINENT FROM COAST TO COAST.



THE U.S. BELIEVED IT HAD A GOD-GIVEN RIGHT TO BRING THE BLESSINGS OF DEMOCRACY TO OTHER, MORE "BACKWARD" PEOPLE - BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. THIS LED TO THE 1846 *MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR* AND THE BRUTAL *INDIAN WARS*. BY 1890, WHITES HAD SETTLED ON LANDS FROM THE EAST COAST TO THE WEST, PROMPTING THE *BUREAU OF THE CENSUS* TO OFFICIALLY DECLARE THE AMERICAN FRONTIER CLOSED. U.S. RULE OVER THE INTERNAL EMPIRE WAS COMPLETE.



