Weekly Worksheet #1:

James Loewen *Lies My Teacher Told Me*

Ch 8, “Watching Big Brother”

This book chapter (by a college sociology professor that likes history) is about the tendency of high-school history textbooks to only talk about the executive branch of the federal government. That means the books ignore broader movements and developments in US history. It also means that other “historical actors” (like individual people, or corporations) get lost.

This has consequence, says Loewen (not least of which that it makes history seem boring). Your job is to read the chapter and figure out what those consequences are.

In addition, answer these three questions (around a paragraph each) to get 25 points towards your semester grade. Submit this all to Canvas by Tuesday, Sept 28. (either upload the word document, or just copy and paste your answers).

1. What are the three styles of history writing? (hint, one of them is *realpolitik*) Define or explain each one.

2. What does Loewen mean on 216 when he says that the “good intentions” (the American superhero approach) “converts textbooks into anticitizenship manuals—handbooks for acquiescence”?

3. How role does the discussion of Civil Right play into the development of the chapter?