

It is essential that students learn the contributions that not only their group, but also every other group has made to our society, so that they may have pride in their group and respect for other groups.

I don't want to see a Negro history or Puerto Rican history but a united history of all groups.

I felt strongly that this lack of information was a major factor in much of the hostility and disinterest that students felt toward history. Some of my students had spent 12 years in school and had never gathered an impression of any Negro except as a slave. In my search for materials I discovered the first two Zenith books, "Worth Fighting For" and "A Glorious Age in Africa," which opened up an entirely new idea of U.S. history to them.

Zenith books present the history of American minority groups and are designed for use in junior and senior high school social studies and English classes. Under the guidance of the series editor, Dr. John Hope Franklin, professor of history at the University of Chicago, we have chosen various periods in American history and commissioned studies on the contributions of a particular minority group during that period.

An example is "Worth Fighting For" by Lawrence Reddick of Coppin State College in Baltimore, Md., and Agnes McCarthy, which describes the Negro during the Civil War and the early years of reconstruction. To accompany the narrative history of these periods we are also publishing biographies of outstanding figures of the period who we feel have been largely neglected or underrated to date.

An example of this is "Four Took Freedom," which is the lives of four ex-slaves, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Blanche K. Bruce, and Robert Smalls, who played an active role before and during the Civil War. This book is by Rayford Logan of Howard University and Philip Sterling.

The books are written on an adult interest level, but with a sixth-grade reading level. To guarantee both authenticity and the readability, each book is coauthored by a prominent historian and a professional writer.

Zenith books are published simultaneously in hardcover and paperback editions, and each book contains approximately 20 illustrations. The hardbound editions meet the specifications of the American Library Association for library bound editions.

We have found that the paperback has a definitive appeal to all children, especially the slow reader, who has, out of discouragement, given up hope of successfully handling his textbook and has lost all interest in reading. To date we have published six Zenith books.

Three of the books are concerned with African history and provide a background of the great civilizations in Africa and the origins of our largest minority group. This material serves to develop pride in this heritage among members of other groups in the United States.

The other three books deal with the Negro in U.S. history. Zenith Books is a series on all minority groups. We presently have under contract two books on Puerto Ricans, a Chinese-American history, and a Mexican-American history. We are planning several books on the American Indian, in addition to further titles dealing with the Negro.

The demands for revision of texts to correct biased and inadequate treatment of minority groups vary across the country. In the urban