

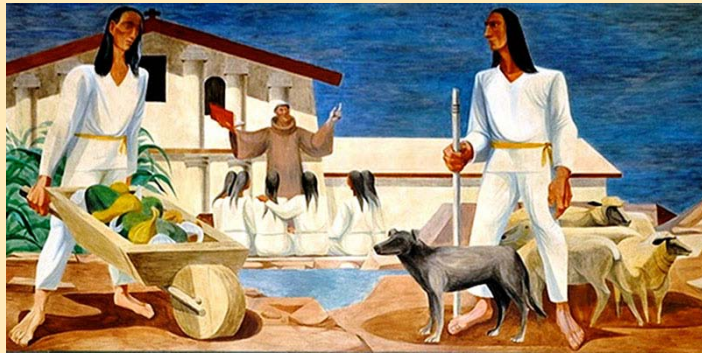
# IF WE KNEW OUR HISTORY

Presented by the Zinn Education Project  
A Collaboration between Rethinking Schools and Teaching for Change

## Lying to Children About the California Missions and the Indians

By Deborah A. Miranda

In California schools, students come up against the "Mission Unit" in 4th grade. Part of California's history curriculum, the unit is entrenched in the educational system and impossible to avoid, a powerfully authoritative indoctrination in Mission Mythology to which 4th graders have little if any resistance. Intense pressure is put upon students (and their parents) to create a "Mission Project" that glorifies the era and glosses over both Spanish and Mexican exploitation of Indians, as well as enslavement of those same Indians during U.S. rule.



In other words, the Mission Unit is all too often a lesson in imperialism, racism, and Manifest Destiny rather than actually educational or a jumping-off point for critical thinking or accurate history. [Continue reading.](#)

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"Lying to Children About the California Missions and the Indians" is the newest article in the Zinn Education Project series, [If We Knew Our History](#), posted on [Huffington Post](#).

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