

Construction

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It starts with the pledge of allegiance
in kindergarten, when you're five or six

the fourth of July, Sparklers, Captain America
hot dogs, red white and blue cake.

Will Smith blowing up aliens and that
white CIA guy in *Black Panther*.

Then Columbus, the founding fathers.
The idea that George Washington,

and Thomas Jefferson were great men.
That they believed in freedom and justice

for all. It grows and it morphs until you're
reading in your history book that the U.S.

invaded Iraq to liberate the Iraqi people from
Saddam Hussein, Afghanistan from the Taliban—

This is the foundation of the American Myth
this is the construction of the American Lie,

Never are you taught that you are on stolen land.
Of the conquest and torture, the rape and bloodshed.

That Washington and Jefferson didn't care about
the freedom of their slaves, of the natives whose

genocide created the 13 colonies and beyond,
of the women who weren't allowed to vote

Not that! Never are you taught about the land we
stole. About California, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado,

Texas, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, The Dakotas, The Indian Wars,
Sharp Knife Andrew Jackson and his scalping techniques—

Never are you taught about the CIA toppling democratically
elected governments in Panama, Syria, Iran, Guatemala, the

Congo, Brazil, Chile, Not that! Not taught about installing
dictators and death traps, no never. Never are you taught

the fact that the FBI murdered Fred Hampton while he slept
in bed next to his pregnant girlfriend. That the CIA brought crack

to the streets of Compton, that the War on Drugs is code for war
on Black People and the Anti-War movement—

Never have they taught you that, because if they did
that would be the destruction of the myth,

the destruction of the America that they've constructed
in your mind since you were a kid watching the Superbowl,

listening to the national anthem as the jets fly overhead.
Never would they have taught you that— because if they did,

you might just see America for exactly what it is.