

This Is Not Who We Are

What kind of country is America? Zachary Shore tackles this polarizing question by spotlighting some of the most morally muddled matters of WWII. Should Japanese Americans be moved from the west coast to prevent sabotage? Should the German people be made to starve as punishment for launching the war? Should America drop atomic bombs to break Japan's will to fight? Surprisingly, despite wartime anger, most Americans and key officials favored mercy over revenge, yet a minority managed to push their punitive policies through. After the war, by feeding the hungry, rebuilding Western Europe and Japan, and airlifting supplies to a blockaded Berlin, America strove to restore the country's humanity, transforming its image in the eyes of the world. A compelling story of the struggle over racism and revenge, *This Is Not Who We Are* asks crucial questions about the nation's most agonizing divides.

Zachary Shore is Professor of History at the Naval Postgraduate School, Senior Fellow at UC Berkeley's Institute of European Studies, and a National Security Visiting Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution. He is the author of five previous books, including *Blunder: Why Smart People Make Bad Decisions* and *A Sense of the Enemy: The High-Stakes History of Reading Your Rival's Mind*.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-20344-9 — This Is Not Who We Are
Zachary Shore
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

This Is Not Who We Are

**America's Struggle Between
Vengeance and Virtue**

Zachary Shore



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-20344-9 – This Is Not Who We Are
Zachary Shore
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009203449

DOI: 10.1017/9781009203418

© Zachary Shore 2023

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2023

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-20344-9 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

List of Figures page vii

Prologue: The Friendship Train 1

Introduction: From Vengeance to Virtue 7

Part I Enemies 19

1 Concentrate 21

2 Sabotage 35

3 Coordinate 48

4 Cover-Up 65

5 Disintegrate 75

6 Collude 84

7 Deny 97

8 Maneuver 115

9 Regret 128

10 Fallout 143

11 Reckoning 157

Part II Saviors 169

12 Rescue 173

vi / Contents

13	Sacrifice	184
14	Reform	202
15	Revive	215
16	Hunger	224
17	Resurrect	238
18	Uplift	250
19	Atone	262
20	Afterlife	274
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	296
	<i>Notes</i>	299
	<i>Select Bibliography</i>	323
	<i>Index</i>	331

FIGURES

- 0.1 The Friendship Train Cargo sets sail for Europe on November 17, 1947, in New York. Originally, it hoped to collect eighty train carloads of food, and the train ultimately collected over 700 cars (\$40 million value) of food, clothing, and fuel, paid in part by monetary donations. *page 4*
- 3.1 Japanese Americans interned at Santa Anita, 1942. 50
- 3.2 A white American gives a baseball bat to an interned Japanese American, through a wire fence, at the “evacuation assembly center” in Santa Anita, 1942. 57
- 8.1 President Harry Truman greets former president Herbert Hoover at the White House, 1950. 121
- 9.1 Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ralph Austin Bard shoots a pistol on a target range during an inspection of the Pacific Fleet base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii in April 1943. 133
- 9.2 American general George Patton (left), known as “Old Blood And Guts,” inspecting the 2nd Armored Division in Berlin with Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy (middle), and American Secretary of War Henry Stimson, July 23, 1945. 139
- 10.1 Japanese boy being treated for injuries following the dropping of the atomic bombs. 145
- 12.1 Two young children at a convent in Rome, where they were cared for by nuns. They were part of a group of children

viii / List of Figures

	who were abandoned or orphaned during WWII, circa 1945.	176
12.2	Citizens of Hamburg queuing among the ruins for their soup rations on March 26, 1946.	177
13.1	Ex-president Herbert Hoover surrounded by homeless Polish children in Warsaw. Hoover, who was a special representative for President Truman, was touring war-torn Europe to study and help alleviate the critical food shortage. This incident took place when Hoover visited a collection center where homeless children were placed until a new home could be found for them.	187
16.1	American girls joining the nationwide campaign to donate food to starving Europeans, 1947.	235
16.2	The crowd celebrating the arrival of the trucks carrying the food packages from the Friendship Train to the city hall in Paris, France, in December 1947.	235
18.1	An allied Dakota plane brings aid to starving Berliners, 1948.	253
20.1	President Reagan and John McCloy talk during a Rose Garden ceremony on April 2, 1985, honoring McCloy, a longtime US diplomatic troubleshooter, who was celebrating his 90th birthday. McCloy said to Reagan, “Compared to me, you’re a spring chicken.” Reagan replied, “You’ve made my day.”	292
20.2	US President Bill Clinton stands with Fred Korematsu awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.	293