

History is Written by the Victors

By Yara A-F, Notting Hill & Ealing High School

History is written by the victors.
A statement so true it's wrong.
The stories we're told
About the brave and the bold
Have been distorted for far too long.

The pain and all the suffering,
The war and the deceit,
Were covered up by colourful posters
To build a bigger fleet.

Victors write the history:
They draw all the maps;
They carve out borders
With force - to 'keep order'
Then leave the natives with scraps.

The victors have never changed in form.
They require no facade.
For when it's not the world, they're abusing women -
For humanity there's no regard.

History blames the terrorists
And 'criminals' that they condemn,
But I'll bet you didn't know
That not long ago
It was the very victors who armed them.

The victors were the cause of most of the wars,
And problems and the conflicts.
They gave away land
Of jungle and sand,
Then left the victims to sort it.

Cultures and heirlooms stolen.
People's history was stolen too.
While royalty drip in blood diamonds,
Columbus never sailed the ocean blue.

The victors describe Africa
As poor, savage and primitive,
But before they arrived
The land and people thrived.
Now resources are limited.

They spread like a plague across the globe.
In the name of God and Good.
They enslaved and betrayed
Through cursed crusades,
But I guess history's 'misunderstood'.

The Middle East is drowning,
In debris, duress and despair.
Their oil is drying;
The people are dying.
But ask "do the victors care?"

I guess that's just how history is made --
Every lie leads to another.
The deception has grown such enormous roots
That the truth has never seemed further.

I want to learn this history,
The raw, unfiltered truth,
Where people were killed for being just human –
This needs to be taught to youth.

But alas, I will never know
Why the victors don't reap what they sow?
Why Ukraine or Russia will never win?
Or why we judge people for their skin?
I guess I'll never really know why Palestine and Israel fought
Because that's not a history lesson that I'll ever be taught.