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Analysis of “ The Intimately Oppressed” by Howard Zinn In “ The Intimately Oppressed”, Howard Zinn exhibits how the natural course of history itself is able to engage knowledge concerning conquests and dominion by men at an initial stage to be perceived in the light of obtaining good reputation. Somehow the invisibility of women under these settings has all the more allowed prominence and exuding confidence of a male figure that seemingly gains full control in observing a celebrated history. Nevertheless, time rolls for history to seek growth in confronting changes with the way accounts are brought to understanding because the general attitude and scrutiny of men over their female counterparts is inevitably expressed.
Zinn occurs to point out how the wicked weaknesses of men may be conveyed and discerned through their approach of treating women. Regardless of disposition, apparently, it is the inherent consideration of men to govern and create their choice of perception freely which sets a state of disturbance in equilibrium for which history can be schemed against to distribute strength eventually in such a way as for developing societies to realize all the dues of women at an instant of being oppressed. In the process of addressing such imbalance of natures and share of control, the shaping of history bears witness to slavery which is not merely confined to gender but to color discrimination as well and the attributes of the oppressors who are chiefly males with mixed gender affiliates. Consequently, the political struggle in an intimate oppression of several forms, designating women as sex slaves, child bearers, servants, and companions, would amount to an amply great cause for women to take a gradual course of action. In resolving to put the people’s history in a context of inequality between sexes as the principal issue of crises across times, women are bound to make an impact through stories that indicate paths to achieving sensible ends with each personal battle. This, as it turns out, is for the world to understand that history, as a deadly tool, is more than a demonstration of established laws, economies, and industries according to potentials that reside in men.
By inferring “ It would be an exaggeration to say that women were treated equally with men; but they were treated with respect, and the communal nature of the society gave them a more important place”, Zinn likely takes the position of persuading his readers toward the belief that gender inequality matters with huge influence and serves as a chronic disease that can only be dealt with by a sense of constant endeavor for defending rights. While the author exemplifies further with resistances and protests carried out by women of the early to mid-19th century particularly against the white settlers, in justifying the means out of oppression encountered at an intimately acute degree, he admits to a proper conclusion that such movements advocating women’s rights have reached an extent when historical truths could no longer enable them to keep suppression. Much as the urge for territorial expansion proceeds with incessant toil among the male-dominated state authorities, the pursuit to regain lost dignity and respect due to deliberate injustice remains the major goal for women who continuously desire to empower themselves and fellow women in order that their sensitive revolutionary worth becomes fully recognized.