

Civilisation nord-américaine

- TD
- Deug2
- 2004-2005
- Minorities in the United States (1776-1890)

Concepts

John Locke (1632-1704)

- English philosopher
- an initiator of the Enlightenment
- an inspirer of the U.S. Revolution
- an inspirer of the U.S. Constitution

John Locke (1632-1704)

- Provided the philosophical basis of the American Revolution
- An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690)
- *Treatises on Public government* (1690 too).
- Advocated limited sovereignty
- Revolution not only a right but an obligation if liberty threatened
- The very ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence (1776).

John Locke

- A man defines himself primarily by laboring
- to acquire and develop a piece of property,
- taking it out of a state of wildness [sic] and into one of cultivation.

The Enlightenment

- A European philosophical and social movement of the eighteenth century,
- the "Age of Reason"
- freedom of thought and expression
- criticism of religion
- value of reason and science,
- commitment to social progress
- individualism.
- These critical, secular ideas played a crucial role in the emergence of modern societies.

Famous philosophers of the Enlightenment

- M. Condorcet (1734-94),
- D. Diderot (1713-84),

- D. Hume (1711-76),
- I. Kant (1724-1804),
- J. H. J. Rousseau (1712-78)
- Voltaire (1694-1778). Source: xrefer

The Enlightenment

- began in England in the seventeenth century (Locke)
- developed in France in the eighteenth century (Bayle, Voltaire, Diderot, and other Encyclopaedists)
- in Germany (Kant)
- Virtually every European country affected by it

The leading doctrines of the Enlightenment

1. Reason to think, to act, correctly.
2. Man is by nature rational and good.
3. Both an individual and humanity as a whole can progress to perfection.
4. All men (including, on the view of many, women) are equal should thus be granted
 - equality before the law
 - individual liberty.
5. Tolerance

The republican experiment

- The Founding Fathers launched an experiment
 - in representative democracy
 - in large scale democracy (a republic).
- Few people thought democratic ideals could work in practice.
- Sounded like rebellion against the established order. Moreover, a large scale republic had never worked before.

The republican experiment ctd

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The republican experiment ctd

- Some Europeans saw America as a place where to start anew
- uncorrupted by Old World institutions and ideas

- The Founding Fathers established a new social order based on
 - natural rights—equality, individual freedom—,
 - the separation of powers
 - justice for all . CM D2 Thursday 10 feb. 2005

Universalism

- The principles that were the foundation of the American republic were thought to be universal
 - applicable to all men in the rest of the world.
- This gave the Founding Fathers, more exactly the Jeffersonians, an excuse and a justification for territorial expansion.

The republican experiment

- It worked ...

Unionism

- A synonym for American patriotism,
- especially in the first decades of the nineteenth century, during the republican experiment.
- Can be defined as the reverence for the Union i.e. the United States
- as opposed to sectionalism or parochialism.

Agrarianism ctd

- Thomas Jefferson
- How to maintain a large scale democracy?
 - Agrarianism (an society of farmers)
 - Based on three ideas: order, decentralization and land.
- Order: the settlement of the West if unorganized, would lead to chaos
- Agrarianism has
 - organized settlement in the West
 - shaped the American landscape to this very day.

Agrarianism ctd

- To oppose a possible return of tyranny
- individual American citizens needed independence from any political oppression
- = the means to survive, a farm, land.
- Plenty of free, public land in the West
 - the Northwest Territory, the Ohio Valley to the Great lakes) after the Treaty of Paris (1783).

Agrarianism ctd

- Distribution of public land to individual farmers

- Land Ordinances of 1785)

- but the isolated Jeffersonian yeoman farmer could never compete with land speculators and land companies.

- Access of new territories in the West to equal statehood

- Northwest Ordinance, 1787

Agrarianism ctd

The whole American West was surveyed and distributed along Jefferson's directions.

Each isolated pioneer could buy a section or two and start a farm.

Agrarianism ctd

The idea was to make the farmer

- Independent,

economically and therefore politically

- Educated

so that he would not become the prey of demagogues and tyrants.

- Virtuous

against corruption and decay.

As long as there was "free" land, the American Democracy could grow into an "empire for liberty."

Agrarianism ctd

Essential for the American government to find more and more land.

Where?

In the west, as far as the Pacific

- westward expansion

continentalism,

all in the name of universalism, and under God. =>Land spoliation

Manifest Destiny

- Belief that America was the land of the chosen people of God

- consequently promised to a great destiny.

- The 2nd War of Independence (1812-14).

- A feeling of American superiority and nationalism.

- The United States had a "Manifest Destiny" to stretch its influence until the Pacific coast.

Manifest Destiny

- Belief in American superiority: democracy, political liberty, the Protestant religion. (American institutions)

- Justification for the conquest of the frontier or the annexation of Indian and Spanish territories.

- America came to be regarded by Americans as the model nation, important enough to extol its image of a redeeming country, under God and His providence.

Manifest Destiny

- J. O'Sullivan in 1845,
- 1845 Polk was elected president on an expansionist platform.
- (WASP) civilization and progress were thus to advance into the wilderness.
- WASP institutions* (democracy, individual liberties, public education) were thought to be superior and therefore should be spread across the continent.
- Protestantism was also thought to be a superior form of religion, better than Spanish Jesuits' Catholicism.

The "natural law tradition":

- An notion associated with Manifest destiny
- Those who wasted the land (Spanish missions, Indians) must yield.

Technological progress

- Part of the WASP belief in progress and the tool of westward expansion.

WASPism

- The belief in the superiority of the White Anglo-Saxon race and institutions, a belief that possibly culminated in the late 19C.

Slavery*

- Also called the peculiar institution.*
- Slavery was the fundamental institution* of the South.
- It was justified ... allowed the civilization* of the "African race."
- The exploitation* of men held in bondage for their labor.
- Slaves of course were deprived of their human rights and of citizenship.*

The Virginian aristocratic ideal

- as based upon patriarchy, paternalism and slavery. => violence
- Patriarchy [ˈpeɪtriəriki]
 - the Southern belle exposes the foundations of a
 - Idealization of the Southern lady
 - to keep her in the bonds of conventions
 - at a lower rank in the social hierarchy.
- The plantation system was dominated by white men, it was a patriarchal society.

Paternalism

- The white female was idealized
- Black slaves were relegated to the rank of children.
- Thus black slaves deprived of

- Education
- Civil rights,

Slavery

- the Southern aristocratic tradition runs violently against the principles of the Declaration of Independence
 - all men are created equal
 - are entitled to some inalienable rights.
- The Southern aristocratic ideal also runs counter to the democratic ideal of the American Constitution.

Emancipation

- manumission
- setting a slave free

Abolitionism

- A movement in several nations of the 19th century
- that sought to abolish slavery and the slave trade.
- In the United States, abolitionists were involved in the conflict between North and South
- The Quakers were particularly noted for activity in this movement.

Some well-known abolitionists:

- Harriett Beecher Stowe *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852)
- Sojourner Truth
- John Brown (1800 - 1859)
- William Lloyd Garrison
- Frederick Douglass

Citizenship

- From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.
- membership in a political community (originally a city but now a state)
- carries with it rights to political participation (the suffrage)
- a person having such membership is a citizen
- largely coterminous with nationality

capitalism

- From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.
- A combination of economic practices
- involving the right of individuals and groups of individuals acting as "legal persons" (or corporations) to buy and sell capital goods such as

- Land
- labor,
- money ...
- in a free market
- relying on the enforcement by the state of private property rights

capitalism

- <http://www.investorwords.com/713/capitalism.html>
- Economic system characterized by
 - private property ownership
 - individuals and companies allowed to compete for their own economic gain
 - free market forces determine the prices of goods and services.
 - Separating the state and business activities.
 - Capitalists believe that markets are efficient and should thus function without interference, and the role of the state is to regulate and protect.

Sectionalism

- An exaggerated devotion to the interests of a region, here. Often refers to the oppositions between North and South. (Syn. sectional antagonism)

Racism

Discrimination

- Unfavorable treatment based on prejudice, esp. regarding race, color, age, or sex.(xrefer)

Segregation

- The separation of a social or esp. racial group from others, as by laws against using the same schools, hotels, buses. (Longman)

Acculturation

- the process of contacts between different cultures
 - and also
 - the outcome of such contacts.
- As the process of contact between cultures, acculturation may involve
 - either direct social interaction
 - or
 - exposure to other cultures by means of the mass media of communication.
- As the outcome of such contact,
 - assimilation by one group of the culture of another
 - modifies the existing culture
 - so changes group identity.

Integration

- The process whereby a minority group,
- particularly an ethnic minority
- adapts to the host society
- The group is accorded equal rights with the rest of the community.
- ≠ Assimilation is integration such that the immigrants' culture is lost. xrefer

Assimilation

- The one-way process by which outsiders relinquish their own culture in favor of that of the dominant society.

E pluribus unum

- E Pluribus Unum* - Out of Many, One
- The motto carried by the eagle on the U.S. Great Seal
- 1776 Pierre Du Simitière
- A clear reference to the thirteen colonies united into one nation
- Source: <http://www.greatseal.com/symbols/unum.html>
- May be enlarged to mean that out of millions of individual Americans one American people.

Federal Indian policy (assimilation)

- assimilation* of Indians
 - through education*
 - conversion*
 - especially in the mission schools on reservations.
 - T. Jefferson's favorite Indian policy,

Federal Indian policy (separation and removal)

- separation
 - Jackson's policy
- The consequence of a separation policy was removal.*
 - across the Mississippi
 - to the Indian Territory*
 - between the Mississippi and the Rockies.
 - Mostly prairie lands, these areas were not thought to be suitable for agriculture.

Federal Indian policy (separation and removal)

- This removal policy was made possible because these areas were in the wilderness and under federal jurisdiction*,
- like the new territories being settled by white pioneers

Land spoliation

- Pioneers demanded ever more and more land
- Indians were cheated into treaties to cede their lands
- Ended up upon reservations.

food depravation

- One way to force Indians onto reservations was the extermination of the bison
- the staple diet of Plains Indians
- federal food and aids for land
- Indians ended up upon reservations.

extermination

- extermination*
- Genocide

Cultural genocide

- If they accepted the white man's deals, a form of cultural genocide* followed as Indians were to be assimilated and become farmers and Christians.
- e.g. The Dawes Act which put an end to
 - tribal occupation of lands and replaced it with
 - individual landownership,* a concept alien to Indian culture which worships Mother Earth.

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