

HST 201: History of United States ONLINE

F17 (Escobar 20886)

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Week 3 Forum

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Creatures of Empire

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9:46 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Creatures of Empire topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Creatures of Empire

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Effects of Religion

by Shelby Presley - Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 9:23 PM

I believe the religious differences had everything to do with the way that the two groups of people viewed animals. As Virginia DeJohn Anderson stated in her audio file the Native Americans saw animals as almost of one their own. She said more specifically that they didn't necessarily think of them as equals although they didn't think they were less important than humans. It's as if they were almost another type of human. The Europeans were mostly religious or had at least seen the bible, where it is written out that animals are food basically. So for them to come to America with their food and the Native Americans think they were spiritual and were "one of us" I am sure was a shock. She mentioned that if the Native

Americans set a trap for a deer and caught a cow they then felt responsible and they had to take responsibility for that death. "However, hunting was not a pure exploitation of animal resources, for in Indian culture animals possessed a spiritual power that was recognised by important rituals when hunting. Hunting was thus a reciprocal rather than an exploitative process, in which animal spirits were honoured and rewarded." This is how she described the Native American's relationship with animals. Before this they added a quote from her book and she stated how the english treated animals, "They were prudent and well-organised, following rigorous daily and seasonal routines dictated by climate, habit, economic goals, and their livestock's needs. They were economical, saving table scraps for hogs and manure for their fields, as well as experimental, adopting new agriculture techniques' (p. 89)." Later on she bought up property and how then it became more of a territorial issue because they would roam into their land and ruin their crops, or walk along the seashore and dig up all of the shellfish, and different things that caused problems other than just the spiritual viewpoint of the new animals. I think a major issue constitutionally wise today is the separation between church and state. I feel there needs to be a huge divide between those two due to the fact that this country was built on people running from religious persecution, yet our government is creating the laws we as citizens have to follow based on religious morals and ideals. It relates to their difficulties because all it is, is a difference in beliefs.

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3



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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Trevor Newton - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 12:56 PM

Trevor Newton

The main problem that DeJohn Anderson talks about is the fact that the incoming Englishmen had different beliefs when it came to their animals then The Native Americans did. The Englishmen thought that the animals they owned were their own personal property and they could do with them whatever they wanted. The Indians on the other hand thought animals were sort of equals. They believed that themselves and the animals shared the land that they lived on and that animals had souls and when they died they went into the afterlife. Also, according to the audio file, the Englishmen felt like the animals were inferior to them and the Native Americans disagreed. I will just say it that I am a hunter. My whole family has hunted for a long time and I enjoy it very much. Just because I am a hunter does not mean I disrespect animals and think they should be treated like a piece of property. I love animals and I have an immense amount of respect for them and being able to harvest one every occasionally, to feed my family is something I do not take for granted. I do disagree with the fact that animals have the same type of soul that a human does. I believe in the Bible and try to follow it to the best of my abilities and in Ecclesiastes 3:21 it says, "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth." I believe from this verse and others like it we see that animals when they die return to the earth or dirt while humans go upward to heaven. I disagree with the fact that animal's spirits go to an afterlife but I agree with the native Americans that animals should be respected and treated fairly. I agree with the concepts of "Creatures of Empire" that the non-native animals that the Englishmen brought over had a major effect on the relationship between the Natives and the Englishmen. In the audio file it was also mentioned about how the treatment of the animals between the two parties discussed was a big part that led to King Phillip's War in New England. I love animals but I do not agree that they are equals with humans but I very strongly agree that they should be treated with respect and not as a piece of property.

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3

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Re: Creatures of Empire-Trevor's writing

by Audrey Millard - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 6:48 PM

Trevor,

Personally, I am not of Christian faith but I have a great respect for all religions. You bring up a viewed that I would have never thought of, so for that, thank you. I found your statement very interesting, I wonder if some of the settlers had the same mindset that you do. Also, I do know that between then and now adjustments have been made here and there to the bible's scripture, maybe influence of other spiritual systems like the Native's play a part. I am just speculating at this point, but now I feel I must put some research into that... Thanks for your views and giving another outlook!!

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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Halie Skinner - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 8:10 PM

DeJohn Anderson suggests that the main problem concerning the European introduction of new types of animals into Native American lands was that Europeans saw animals as property that they had a biblical right to, while Indians felt that animals were, according to the podcast, "Other than human persons". (DeJohn Anderson podcast at 2:26 minute mark). Personally, I think that animals can be seen as a mixture of these two ideas. Like the Indians, I feel strongly that animals posses a soul or spirituality. They are able to feel emotions like a human being, but at the same time I think that cows and pigs and other animals provide us with food and are necessary for our everyday survival. I can see the European side of things where they see their livestock as a means of feeding their families and making money. Where I disagree with this idea is that they thought they had the right to allow their "property" to roam freely no matter if the land belonged to the Indians, I believe that it was unfair that the Indians were prosecuted when they retaliated, In the review of DeJohn Anderson's book it states,"Livestock broke into Indian corn fields and trampled upon their crops, but Indians found that if they retaliated by killing the livestock it was they who would be prosecuted". (Dr Matthew Ward, review of *Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America* paragraph 13). I guess this means that I more closely identify with the Indian belief because even though I look at certain animals as a food source, they still should be treated humanely and with respect.

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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Shelby Presley - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 12:11 PM

Halie,

I also agree that animals are similar to humans and should be treated with respect. I find it interesting that we all listened to the same podcast but some of us got very different things out of it. I heard it as a connection to today's struggles between our own societies' beliefs and how they compare. I believe that they're startlingly similar and I fear that in these past

hundreds of years we haven't learned much. Although, I agree with you're belief I feel as a society we need to work on the part when we don't necessarily agree. We still need to act kindly and with respect.

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Thoughts on Creatures of Empire

by Desiree Mantey - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 8:49 PM

Hallie,

I agree with you that the main issue is the arrogance of the colonists believing they could just let their "property" wander all over the Native American's land. They were so into being superior over them that they didn't think it mattered where their animals were or what they did. In my eyes it continues to be a racism issue. The "we're better than them so we can do what we want" mentality was a major issue with the colonists. I also completely agree that it was ridiculous for the colonists to seek revenge for their animals that were hurt or killed in Native American traps.

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First thoughts on Creatures of Empire

by Audrey Millard - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 10:27 PM

Before this assignment I had never thought about this. Never did so ponder the reaction of natives to unknown animals. It's almost unimaginable. Could you image new people and animals just randomly showing up one day.... I cannot even think of how I'd react. Fear, confusion, loss of faith or maybe gain of faith. It would really be a fight or flight experience. Personally, I think I would be scared.

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Reply to : First thoughts on Creatures of Empire

by Trevor Newton - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 10:09 PM

Audrey,

Before this assignment I too had never thought about the impact that the foreigners and their animals had on the native people. I too would probably be very scared if I had lived all my life with the native people and animals and then all of the sudden one day these weird looking people with weird looking animals. I could not believe that the impact of animals could start a war as In stated in my post. This assignment was definitely enlightening for me and hopefully it was for you too!

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Animals and Europeans vs Indians

by Sarah Amoson - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 11:21 AM

I never knew how much animals contributed to the clashes between Native American's and European settlers before reading this. I knew that religious beliefs made co-existing impossible during these times, but I never realized the role animals played to that. I was very intrigued when I learned that Native American's didn't have a word to separate animals from people, but just had words to describe specific species. They believed that animals all had a spiritual power of some sort, rather than looking at them as a property like the European's did. I think the issues Native American's and European's faced regarding animals can be compared to many views our society faces today such as, abortion, birth control (health care), and just about any other thing that people base on religion or moral beliefs.

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Re: Animals and Europeans vs Indians

by Shelby Presley - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 12:06 PM

Sarah,

I never realized this problem either until I listened to this. I agree that it can be compared to today's struggles in congress and between our leaders. It seems that most if not all of our disagreements are a difference in belief similar to the Native Americans and the Europeans. I just hope our differences don't end in the same way that theirs did with King Philip's war.

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Reply to : Animals and Europeans vs Indians

by Trevor Newton - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 10:15 PM

Sarah,

I too could not believe the impact that the animals had between the natives and the foreigners. I could understand a few skirmishes but a full on war? That is crazy! I enjoyed your take on the issues that the Native Americans and Europeans faced that can be applied to today's time.

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The effect of European animals on the new world

by Desiree Mantey - Friday, October 13, 2017, 5:23 PM

Virginia DeJohn Anderson mentioned a few problems that arose as a result of European's bringing their animals to the new world. The first problem was the difference between how colonists and Native American's viewed animals. Colonists viewed animals simply as property and Native American's believed that animals were "other than human person's," who were not inferior to people and who possibly had spiritual powers. This difference in view points became an issue because of the lack of control that the colonists had over their animals. Cows, pigs, and goats could generally be found wandering around the woods where Native Americans would hunt or even in their fields damaging crops. European animals also ended up eating grasses or other plants and this ended up depleting food sources for animals that the Native American's would hunt. In addition to this Native American's usually hunted with traps

and not bows and arrows so wandering colonial livestock could easily find themselves caught up in a snare or killed by one. This became an issue because the European's viewed their animals as property which could land Native American's who accidentally trapped their livestock in hot water for destruction of property.

Before watching this video I never even thought about the effect that bringing foreign animals to the America's could have on native peoples and their relationships with colonists. The more I learn in this class the more I realize how things that seem insignificant can truly have serious consequences.

Personally I view different types of animals in different ways. I do not see wild animals as property but I also don't think that they are equal to people or have spiritual powers. My opinion differs when it comes to domesticated animals like dogs and cats which I do tend to believe are in some sense of the word, property.

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My more detailed thoughts on this topic

by Audrey Millard - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 6:35 PM

Some interesting logic brought up in the audio learning, like the fact that the English thought of the living stock as property. That is a very learned trait made normal by society. The natives of America viewed animals so much differently. Some tribes traveled with animals, they saw themselves as equals with the creatures. The way the two parties viewed animals is a fantastic example of there differences. The English treated the natives very similar to the way they treated animals, they used them. The English did not see the soul and value in animals much like the Natives did. Just psychologically, the way someone treats an animal tell much about the character of the person. A more relatable example, is the way someone treats a dog. If they live with a dog, do they kick it when it misbehaves? Do they sell it if they cannot train it? Or, do they keep trying and show the animal kindness. The person that kicks the dog, my treat people with hostility when feeling unheard or disagreed with. The person that doesn't may be more understanding. My point is it may seem like the way English treated animals, as property, is unrelated to how they treated the Natives but I do not believe so. They saw themselves, "above" the natives even though the natives had provided for them.

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