



HST 201: History of United States F16 (Escobar Meta 20938 23214)

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Forum 1 ► Creatures of Empire



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Creatures of Empire

by Joe Escobar - Friday, October 7, 2016, 10:04 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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How they viewed animals

by Emily Phan - Saturday, October 8, 2016, 10:15 AM

In the podcast Anderson suggests that the main problem was that Europeans and Indians viewed animals differently. The Europeans regarded many animals as property when the Indians saw them as free for the taking. I believe both were partially right. An animal that I bring up or buy is my property. However an animal that is in the wild and hasn't been claimed by anyone, this animal belongs to no one. If someone can find a use for it and this animal isn't super rare then they can take it.

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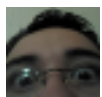
Re: How they viewed animals

by Tyger Gruber - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 10:47 PM

This brings up an interesting topic. Silk worms DO have an interesting and profitable use, but people following your logic found them all in the wild and I believe the majority of silk worms are kept in enclosures and used to farm silk. Because of this, the ones found in nature are very respected and there used to be a death sentence if you killed one, much like the early Americans had a death sentence for anyone who shared tobacco seeds. Some parts of nature are really profitable, we are seeing this especially now with the THC epidemic, I wonder what the first ever natural product was that was originally used to a profitable reason. Probably something like cats in Egypt as a religious thing, if they even had economic systems in place in ancient Egypt. Regardless, what do you think will be the final part of Mother Nature made for sale? Following THC will most likely come from mushrooms as seen in Amsterdam where they're legal. One day we may have wars over water!

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Re: How they viewed animals

by Joseph Hemrick - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 11:23 AM

That's interesting about the silk worms. I knew they existed, but no idea how they were kept or how the wild ones were treated. I assume that is in the eastern part of the world? I wonder if that respect continues today. I'd be willing to bet, if it were in the western part, there would almost be no respect for the wild counterpart. It would just be plucked out of its habitat and put into production.

Earth's final frontier is the ocean, so think the war might not be over water, but what's under it (a resource we have yet to fully exploit.)

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Re: Creatures of Empire: Problems with the animals

by Zachary Fish - Saturday, October 8, 2016, 12:21 PM

According to DeJohn Anderson, the main problem with the animals was that the natives had never seen some of them before. Natives had long scene other/european born people but never the animals that they possessed. Another problem the natives thought of was why do the europeans own their animals. natives do not have the same idea about property, for they were a communal society, and the fact that a living creature was property. Natives believed that animals were different living beings, however that they were not inferior beings. The idea of spiritual powers and protectors often came to light when indians encountered animals. I would like to think that I share similar beliefs with the natives; recognize that they too are living inhabitants of the earth, spiritual (even though most people think they are dumb and mindless). But I say my beliefs are similar to the natives because even though they viewed animals as spiritual and not inferior to humans, they didn't let that get in the way of them using them for survival (i.e. food, clothing, etc)

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Re: Creatures of Empire: Problems with the animals

by Emily Phan - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 10:09 AM

I do not believe that most people in America think that animals are mindless. They definitely have a mind and some are quite intelligent. For example the horse and the dog, both of which can be trained to do quite useful sometimes rather complicated things. Animals have less intelligence than most humans but certainly have intelligence and this fact is acknowledged by all I have ever heard of. But maybe I can just assume you have just simply misspoken.

I am just trying to clarify your position here. Are you saying that animals are the same as humans? In your post you stated that animals were, "not inferior to humans." Do you believe that an animal life is just as important as a human life? If a human and a cat were drowning and you could only save one would there be no moral reason to save the human? Is there no difference when an animal gets hit by a car and a human gets run over? Is putting down a dog and killing a child no different? I do not quite understand your position.

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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Quan Cheng - Saturday, October 8, 2016, 2:03 PM

Europeans looked animals as property, but I indians didn't have that view about livestocks. Indians think that they and share the land. Like professor Virgina DeJohn Anderson said, "That they were living beings sharing the earth who were different

from human beings, but not necessarily inferior to them.”(audio 2:28)

In my culture, people’s point of view is more like Europeans’. We think that livestock (except dogs, cats etc.) are our property. Especially for farmers, not all the people, think that way since they live on livestock. They sell their livestock to earn money. In that case, livestock absolutely becoming their property.

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We don't own our dogs and cats?

by Tyger Gruber - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 10:21 PM

I agree that our societies are much different now. But I have the belief that we own our cats and dogs. Where would be the line between animals we own and do not own? From a naturalistic viewpoint it should be based upon brain function, but then why do we mistreat dolphins by having them in aquariums? Clearly nobody has any of this figured out. But what do you think we could do to improve this?

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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Jonathan Whittington - Saturday, October 8, 2016, 2:41 PM

It makes sense that the native people were more shocked at the animals then they were the Europeans. Like the audio said, they had contact with Vikings and many other white people before the animals so they certainly were not surprised or shocked when they saw them. I think that if I was only used to seeing dogs and then all of a sudden I saw a horse for the first time I would certainly be shocked considering the size difference. The natives knew what the humans could do, but I would imagine the sight and power of a horse was certainly a shock to them.

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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Quan Cheng - Saturday, October 8, 2016, 10:43 PM

I agree with you. If I were Indian during that time, I would be shocked because I had never seen these animals before. But, since Indians already saw European animals, they still killed these livestock. Why? Here lead to a problem. Indians killed Europeans’ livestock, which are their properties. What professor mentioned in audio, “And in part, it’s because the English did not have full control over their animals’ behavior. So we find a lot of instances of English animals trespassing on Indian planting fields, destroying crops, digging up the land, and so on, creating

real damage to the Indians' subsistence practices, even to the point of pigs, for instance, going out to the coasts at low tide, digging up the shellfish that the native peoples relied on for their subsistence. Animals chewing on the same kinds of bark and eating the grasses that deer and other indigenous animals that the Indians relied on for hunting." (3:10)

My opinion is no one thought about Indians' properties, planting fields, crops, land and so on. Europeans' livestock infringes Indians' properties first.

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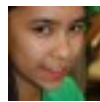
Re: Creatures of Empire

by Jonathan Whittington - Monday, October 10, 2016, 12:49 PM

You are correct. Its funny that Europeans are upset about their livestock or property getting killed, when the whole time they were really trespassing on the native American lands so they were being pretty hypocritical in that sense.

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"Funny" and "Hypocritical" ?

by Emily Phan - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 10:32 AM

The Europeans regarded the land in America as free for the taking. In Europe when you owned land you often fenced it or put markers around it. The Indians didn't. The Europeans felt that the land was wilderness and belonged to no one. Of it did belong to the Indians, the Indians weren't really using much of it and could share. When they arrived the Europeans claimed land for themselves with a sanction from the government from the land in which they originated. Their government said they could have the land so they regarded it as free for the taking. Sometimes they even "bought" the land from the Indians. At least they thought they had bought it. They didn't think they were "trespassing." I do not find it "funny" or queer that they were upset when their animals were killed on it.

Imagine if your pet wandered into someone's yard and got killed would you be upset? I would. Livestock was hard to come by in America. If you had one cow and it got killed there really wasn't any easy way to replace it. Livestock was very, very expensive. It had to come all the way from England or be bred from the few animals in America. Imagine that you parked your car in a field that you regarded as no ones. When you came back the next day you found it full of bullet holes. A guy there said that he owned the field and liked to do target practice in it and your car had been in the way but he hadn't really meant to shoot it. Would you be upset? I would be furious. It was perfectly natural for the Europeans to be mad about the killing of their animals.

So I find the Europeans actions neither “funny,” nor “hypocritical,” when I look at the context of the events in question.

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Re: "Funny" and "Hypocritical" ?

by Jonathan Whittington - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 11:10 AM

You are correct in the fact that I would be very upset if my animal got killed on someone else property. The point I'm trying to make is that the Europeans didn't ask to set up they just set up camp wherever they wanted. The difference is imagine if they found America and there were other Europeans already inhabiting the land, do you think they still would have claimed it as their own?

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Re: "Funny" and "Hypocritical" ?

by Emily Phan - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 5:12 PM

If they had found other Europeans their they wouldn't have been allowed to settle, for the other people wouldn't have let them stay. They would have had to leave because of force of arms. Also look at European history. Europeans are not nice to each other and go to war over land many times. So they probably would have liked to take the land if they could have found a way to do it.

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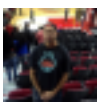


What Would You Do? A Problem With The Law

by Tyger Gruber - Monday, October 10, 2016, 10:54 AM

We are in a similar situation today where the people who we rely on to keep us safe and take care of us are abusing that power (Police shootings) and it looks like we are facing a similar issue of power in the hands of unjust people. The Native Americans delt with a very similar issue where they could go to jail if an animal of someone elses property got caught in their trap, even though it wasn't their fault. So I ask what may be done about this imbalance of power? Was the way it was handled in the early Americas the same way we should handle it now?

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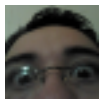
Re: What Would You Do? A Problem With The Law

by Jonathan Whittington - Monday, October 10, 2016, 12:53 PM

Certainly we should not handle it the same way as they did then, if we did that we would have people being put to death over little crimes. I think that really the problem in both situations is just people today and back then were just so power hungry. Being better or above somebody else was a good look and good position to be in. Remember the Europeans started all of this by taking the natives land in the first place. In terms of today, while certainly the majority of police are here to help and want to do the job the right way, I do think that becoming a cop intrigues some people just because of the fact that it allows you to have some sort of power over everyday civilians. Hopefully soon we can solve this ongoing problem in America that seems to get worse everyday.

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Overlooked creatures of Empire.

by Joseph Hemrick - Monday, October 10, 2016, 2:57 PM

What does DeJohn Anderson suggest the main problem was, concerning these new animals and their relation to the Indians (and Europeans) and do you look at animals that way?

According to DeJohn Anderson, Europeans viewed their livestock as property (1:45 audio file.) I suppose for me, I would agree that I view domesticated animals as property, such as cats, dogs, birds etc. Livestock would also be included in that list. Your dog (or cow) is your property, if I took it, that would be stealing. I'm not sure the legalities of "taking" *wild animals*, but I do believe capturing certain wild animals is illegal as well, even though no one actually "owns" them.

How did religious differences between these two peoples play a role, and to which spiritual/cultural view of animals do you more closely identify?

Native Americans viewed animals as almost equals to humans and having a spiritual guardian, something the English Christians thought to be heretical (2:20 audio file.) I feel like I identify with both in a way. On one hand I see most animals as property, things that are owned/controlled, but on the other hand some of those same animals I view as part of my family (my 3 dogs.) I can also respect the idea that wild animals could be seen as our "equals" in some respects. Most wild animals could easily kill a human if they were unprepared, or even simply unaware of the animal's presence.

Can you find or determine a connection between this discussion of animals and any constitutional issues we face in our nation today?

In DeJohn Andersons example of Indian trap hunting, if a cow wandering into the trap and it dies, the Indian is liable for damages (4:00 audio file.) In modern day, that is still very much the case with viewing animals as property, you are then inherently

responsible for them if they cause damage. Also the idea of animal trespass (6:20 audio file) was something I had not even considered until now. However, I would imagine cattle farmers, and their neighbors dealing with that almost daily.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with this concept “Creatures of Empire”? Why?

This is a somewhat tough question for me to answer. I have so little exposure to this idea, while super interesting, I was having trouble finding information on this topic outside of the audio clip. I will be honest and say I have not quite made it through chapter 3 yet, but I did skim through to the end, without anything mentioning animals. That said, I can agree with DeJohn Andersons concept. The idea that the European animals of that time period would have definitely had a contributing role in the shaping of early society/conflicts, something that does in fact seem to be overlooked. My limited exposure to history could play a part in my ignorance on the subject, or maybe it is simply because there really is not much written about it.

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Re: Overlooked creatures of Empire.

by Grant Garcia - Friday, October 14, 2016, 9:23 PM

I really like your response to the second question in this forum, i understand that many people will have different views on animals and whether they should be treated as property but I feel what people should focus on is the treatment of these animals in their respective "homes" as opposed to whether it be natural or not. Because people argue that when we capture animals whether it be for food or amusement (a zoo for example.) it is no longer letting nature take its course, but people are a part of nature we just tend to have more power over other creatures. Animals have killed other animals long before humans came into play, I believe it is perfectly fine for animals to be captured but they should be treated properly, meaning if they are in a home or a zoo they should be given suitable and comfortable living conditions and if they are being raised or used for meat they should also have these suitable living conditions and be killed swiftly. I wonder how much of the difference in views had to do with religion vs. whether the Indian communities felt the animals weren't being treated fairly.

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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Quan Cheng - Monday, October 10, 2016, 9:19 PM

There are lot of news either in America and Asian countries, animals hurt or kill human. The result is mo matter what animals would be killed. Do we have better choices can do to animals? Can we save their life even they kill or hurt people?

Maybe we can give them a class or lessons to teach them don't hurt human again since. That not gonna happen. Not only they couldn't understand, also they probably hurt or kill other people again.

Animals are human's property. For this point I totally agree.

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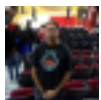
Re: Creatures of Empire

by Joseph Mann - Monday, October 10, 2016, 10:19 PM

Indians looked at animals different, europeans just saw their animals as food. where Indians saw animals in a very spiritual way. I don't look at animals in this way but I don't look down on them like the europeans I simply look at animals like citizens of the world just as I am. There is many controversey with animals today with slaughterhouses, chicken farms, etc. It is the same discussion where one type of person looks at them just as food, or look at them almost as an equal they treat them like another living being

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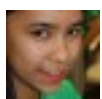
Re: Creatures of Empire

by Jonathan Whittington - Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 11:46 AM

I agree with you. While I certainly don't view animals in a spiritual way like some people do, I do understand that there is a food chain, and we need some animals to survive as humans. The only thing I dislike is the way some animals are treated at zoos. We all heard about the Harambe incident but I think it goes much farther beyond that. While the animals are fed and most live good lives I always get the sense that some animals just aren't meant to be in a cage for their whole lives just be stared at by human beings. Just curious what other peoples thoughts are on this matter.

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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Emily Phan - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 5:19 PM

"Approximately 3.1 million children die from hunger each year"
(<http://www.worldhunger.org/world-child-hunger-facts/>)

"About 21,000 people die every day of hunger or hunger-related causes, according to the United Nations." (<http://www.poverty.com/>)

With statistics like these I find it hard to fret over animals to much.

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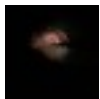
Re: Creatures of Empires Views on animals

by Jeff Johnson - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 10:15 PM

I think the idea that Europeans saw animals as property and Natives worshiped them is a little simplistic. I agree they had different ideas about ownership but I have a hard time believing that a small farmer only thought of his animals as food and property. I would think that being in a new country those animals were there for survival and would be treated with great care. I also think while the Native tribes had a more spiritual relationship with animals they were still hunters. The biggest differences and problems came from the fact that America was land rich and the Europeans had a very different view having come from land poor places especially the British coming from a small island.

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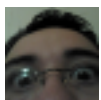
What does DeJohn Anderson suggest the main problem was, concerning these new animals and their relation to the Indians (and Europeans) and do you look at animals that way?

by Matt Oordt - Monday, October 10, 2016, 11:19 PM

The main problem with the introduction of European animals to the new found land was that the Indians did not view animals as property like the Europeans did. Personally I do see animals as property.

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Re: What does DeJohn Anderson suggest the main problem was, concerning these new animals and their relation to the Indians (and Europeans) and do you look at animals that way?

by Joseph Hemrick - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 12:32 PM

I feel the same way about most domesticated animals, but had trouble figuring out who would "own" wild animals. Do you still call wild animals property? How would you seek damages if a wild animal damages something on your land, or it kills a pet? I'm curious your opinion on wild animals.

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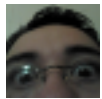
Re: What does DeJohn Anderson suggest the main problem was, concerning these new animals and their relation to the Indians (and Europeans) and do you look at animals that way?

by Tyger Gruber - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 10:40 PM

What about animals like bears, elephants, tigers, and sharks? These animals should get their own corner of the ecosystem to thrive...Why should we get the power to "own all these animals" But I agree this was an issue back then and should still be today. With the exception of some zoos (RIP Harambe) most zoos are decent and the caretakers really love the animals so its a fine line. Im curious what your thoughts are on the stance of why we get to own animals, but other animals cant own other animals. What makes us any different? Were all made form the same space dust.

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Re: What does DeJohn Anderson suggest the main problem was, concerning these new animals and their relation to the Indians (and Europeans) and do you look at animals that way?

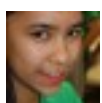
by Joseph Hemrick - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 3:44 PM

Technically, we (*homo sapiens*,) are animals! 😊 Carolus Linnaeus gave us that classification (I only know that because I'm taking Anthropology this term too.) (Intro to Physical Anthro, p29)

While I agree that we are all made up of the same space dust, there is a pretty significant difference between us and another animals. Brain size relative to our bodies. So the aspect of control comes into play I think. If another animal could control us, I'm sure they would (actually, politicians come to mind!) You could go into the idea of slavery too, humans owning other humans.

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Re: What does DeJohn Anderson suggest the main problem was, concerning these new animals and their relation to the Indians (and Europeans) and do you look at animals that way?

by Emily Phan - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 5:30 PM

Here are three arguments.

-Basic evolution says that the strong prey upon the weak and the fittest survives.

- If we are all just space dust than is there any reason why can't I own other animals if it makes me happy?
- The Bible says that, "God created man in His own image." (Genesis 1:27a) This means that God made humans special. They aren't just another animal, nor are they just another speck of space dust.

Any of these counter arguments resonate with you?

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Re: What does DeJohn Anderson suggest the main problem was, concerning these new animals and their relation to the Indians (and Europeans) and do you look at animals that way?

by Emily Phan - Saturday, October 15, 2016, 5:33 PM

Also animals do own other animals. The alpha male or female runs the pack or herd in some species. Some kinds of ants steal the eggs of other kinds so that the babies born from these eggs can work for them. A mother or father animal also owns their offspring for a time.

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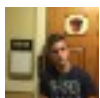


Re: Creatures of Empire

by Jeff Johnson - Monday, October 10, 2016, 11:20 PM

I don't know about anyone else but I found the animal thing interesting but a little bit ridiculous to be the main topic. I think the topic of how Native Americans and incoming Europeans viewed land is far more important and is why European animals spread so rapidly. I think the idea of land use is a far more relevant topic that we still need to deal with today. We are now in an ever growing world where thing like the Oregon standoff show us that this problem has not gone away.

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Re: Animal Treatment then and now

by Grant Garcia - Monday, October 10, 2016, 11:50 PM

This subject is very interesting and relatable to today's society for many reasons. In the days of English settlers (the dominating force) the way these settlers treated and viewed their animals was based around property. The animal was there to serve a purpose strictly for the human that owns it, where as many Indians tended to view many animals in a more spiritual way and in a more respect based sense. This is very interesting and comparable to today's

society where the majority of people living here have often times opposing views to how people with more power are treating animals. In the time of settlers those with the most power treated animals in ways that others didn't necessarily agree with. That seems to be the case again in today's world as people with tremendous wealth and power mass produce food and make large sums of money doing so by giving animals terrible, forced, and unnatural living conditions to benefit that person, usually financially.
(<https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-animals-and-factory-farms>) This method of treatment is again very disagreed upon by those with less power. (An average citizen.) Again we see a disagreement in, respect and morality surrounding the treatment of these animals.

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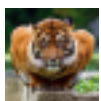
Creatures of Empire

by Tannon Rounsaville - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 10:43 PM

I agree with Anderson when she comes to the conclusion that the natives were probably more shocked when they saw the European animals, than the actual Europeans. They already have a society of human beings and know what a human being is. So when another human being with slight differences comes to the states, they shouldn't be as confused compared to a completely new creature that crawls on 4 legs and makes strange noises.

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Re: Creatures of Empire

by Tyger Gruber - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 9:11 PM

I had never considered how strange it would be to practically discover a new animal by seeing it unloaded from boats. I would be like an alien invasion but everyone just acts like they've been there forever. A different world it was back then. Seeing people of a different skin color would also strike me as "out there" because that would be the equivalent of all of a sudden purple people coming from across an ocean that we didn't think had an end. Which would scare/frighten/set you aback more? A new shade of person, or a new animal? Regardless It's hard not to thinka bout what species we may discover in the future on distant stars and planets!

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Lack of facts and evidence in podcast

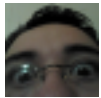
by Jeff Johnson - Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 11:46 PM



Does anyone one else have a hard time believing someone who says things like “I can’t help but think (:34, podcast)” or “although there is not a tremendous amount of direct evidence of this (1:00, podcast)”. I do like the points that Professor Anderson brings up but where is her evidence? Maybe I’m just going to have to read the book to find some. I was just wondering if anyone else found it it kind of weird she didn’t actually bring up any real examples of anything she talked about.

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Re: Lack of facts and evidence in podcast

by Joseph Hemrick - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 3:30 PM

Yeah, that podcast was very short (if there were a longer version, she might have given more detailed accounts.) However, in the Amazon link, the very first user review (T. Pangle) mention some of her credentials and a little more insight to her book. I almost overlooked the link myself.

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Re: Lack of facts and evidence in podcast

by Tyger Gruber - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 9:14 PM

I understand where she was coming form, I enjoy speaking (or writing) more of ideas rather than specific examples. I know this isn't helpful in History where examples are an objectively better approach. But for me personally thats why I chose her podcast, because she was more idea/concept orientated than factual, this really speaks to me and I have a general feeling that people have no reason to lie about what their teaching so I generally believe most of what I hear until I am giving opposing information. Not saying my motto or right, it's probably not. But it's worked for me thus far in life.

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