

HST 201: History of United States F17 (Escobar Meta 20887 23004)

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Cartoons - Part 1

by Joe Escobar - Friday, November 24, 2017, 6:40 PM

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Cartoon #5

by Coty Ferguson - Saturday, November 25, 2017, 10:00 AM

Today, I'm focusing on cartoon #5. It shows a very interesting image that raises some interesting questions. Obviously the cartoon isn't able to be understood by me as well as it would have been if I was viewing it around the time it was originally printed, but I can still feel a clear message being conveyed. It makes sense, really, many people always assume the president has all the power (especially nowadays when things like live broadcasts and social media allow people stay updated on the activities of the president much more readily than the more reserved branches of the government). This

can easily lead to a feeling of the president and the executive branch making all of the decisions and having all the power without any limiting factors. This isn't true, however. Unless the president were to declare himself a dictator or king and ignore the other branches powers completely, the other branches have the checks and balances necessary to limit the executive and each other, just as the executive has limiting capabilities for the other branches. It often appears that the president has all the power because of the fact that he acts like a focal point for citizens to focus on. If something goes wrong, the president is the first person people blame, just as he is the overwhelming focus of praise when the country ends up better off, but the president is in no way the only person who decides the fate of the United States.

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Cartoon #5 Response to Coty Ferguson

by Jesus Narvaez Santiago - Thursday, November 30, 2017, 7:13 PM

Yes I agree with you. The media does portray a lot of the President having all the power.

People seem to always fear a President when in reality its Congress and Supreme Courts who are the majority of the government which makes laws, or declares them unconstitutional.

The checks and balances do keep the balance to an extend as well, because Presidents also have the power to make Executive Orders and if not ruled unconstitutional does orders can be implemented in the country.

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Re: Cartoon #5

by Brogan Cornish - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 5:21 PM

I totally agree with your perspective of cartoon 5. It feels like that they want to say that the president and and the executive branch think of themselves as more important than the other two. Its only because of the position of the president. But I do agree the that back then the executive branch had a bigger role with enforcing laws. It would be really tough in that time period, with all the rebellions happening.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Cartoons - Part 1

by Kerianne Guza - Saturday, November 25, 2017, 5:21 PM

Looking at the first political cartoon, I have come to the conclusion that whoever drew this is trying to point out the differences between what our founding fathers wanted versus what America has become. In the top left corner it says that "It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debt as it goes" (Jefferson, 1st Cartoon). Initially, this made me think of Alexander Hamilton, the Secretary of Treasury at the time, who focused a large number of his efforts on trying to eliminate debt. However, after further examination, I noticed that the character in the cartoon was Thomas Jefferson, who no surprise, shares similar views towards the nation's debt. Jefferson believed that the country should "pay its debts without incurring new ones", but clearly this is not what ended up happening (Liberty, Equality, Power, 255-256). Now our country is bombarded with an overwhelming amount of debt.

The bottom right quote also refers to one of Jefferson's ideas, announced in his Inaugural Address. This one refers to the size of our government. Jefferson believed that our government should be small in size, which not only would reduce the "parasites living on the labor of the industries", but would also help eliminate our nation's debt (Jefferson, 1st cartoon).

The political cartoon's artist is calling to attention beliefs that America was founded on, that he or she believes should be brought back. These problems Jefferson mentions are things that we, as a nation, are still dealing with now. Maybe if we all had the same ideas that Jefferson expresses, then we wouldn't be here now; or maybe Jefferson was asking for something that just wasn't possible.

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Cartoon #5

by Jesus Narvaez Santiago - Sunday, November 26, 2017, 3:15 PM

This cartoon in my view is the Executive Branch cutting off the Judicial (Supreme Court of the United States) and the Legislative (Congress – House and Senate) from itself to take control.

Without those two branches, Executive branch has all the power to make decisions, and just like we have discussed in class that these three branches of government were put in place to limit the power of each branch a "Checks and Balances". Each branch is able to balance the power of the others. Which is also in a way funny the way this cartoon is put because the Executive branch can also implement Executive Orders which has

happened with President Bush, Obama, and Trump recently. Some were deemed unconstitutional which the Judicial had a balance of power. The founding fathers did not want the United States government to be like the British Crown where one person such as the King dictates the law of the land. In the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia of 1787 the founding fathers implemented in the Constitution the three branches of government as discussed in class.

I agree with the cartoon and the message that sometimes the Executive branch does try to make its own decisions but that is a good thing we have a checks and balances system, if not the fate of the country would be in a worse condition. I do not believe though that one person should have all the power like a King or Queen.

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Re: #6

by Kinsey Alexander - Monday, November 27, 2017, 1:33 PM

This cartoon references the Second Amendment from which the current controversy around gun control stems from. It shows James Madison staring wide-eyed at a modern, automatic weapon, I believe to emphasize the contrast between contemporary and early American technology. Furthermore, Madison happens to be drafting the segment of the Constitution that reads “a well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”. However, the cartoon just spotlights the “well-regulated militia” part. Perhaps the author is implying that federal control over guns is, in fact, maintained by the Constitution. If this is the case, then I believe the author is promoting historically inaccurate information by cherry-picking phrases from the Second Amendment. That is not to say, however, that I don’t entirely agree with the message. I believe that the founding fathers had no context of modern-day weapons, as the image seems to imply, and I think that this is something that should be included in the national debate on gun control.

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Cartoon #6

by Nallely Martinez - Monday, November 27, 2017, 8:47 PM

James Madison was so correctly named the father of the Bill of Rights because of his role in proposing and writing amendments that would become a staple document in protecting civil rights. Many of the bills he proposed reflected fears that citizens had towards a strong government and helped ease that fear by protecting their freedoms

(textbook pg. 239). As the cartoon shows him writing, of those amendments included the well-regulated militia and the protection of people's right to bear Arms but it seems to show that not even Madison knew how drastically those Arms would change. The issue the cartoon seems to bring up is that of what kind of Arms the government should be allowing citizens to bear. Assault weapons have made headline new through unfortunate events that bring up the issue of how restricted (or free) weapon accessibility should be. If interpreted through the constitutional interpretation of a living constitution, it would probably literally mean any weapon created since the constitution was written. But because that causes a danger, it has to be examined thoroughly; In the cartoon, even Madison seemed to be shocked to see how powerful the weapon the other man was holding is. I believe the cartoon correctly interprets the issues surrounding the topic of well-regulated militia and rights to bear Arms and agree with the message expressed in it as well.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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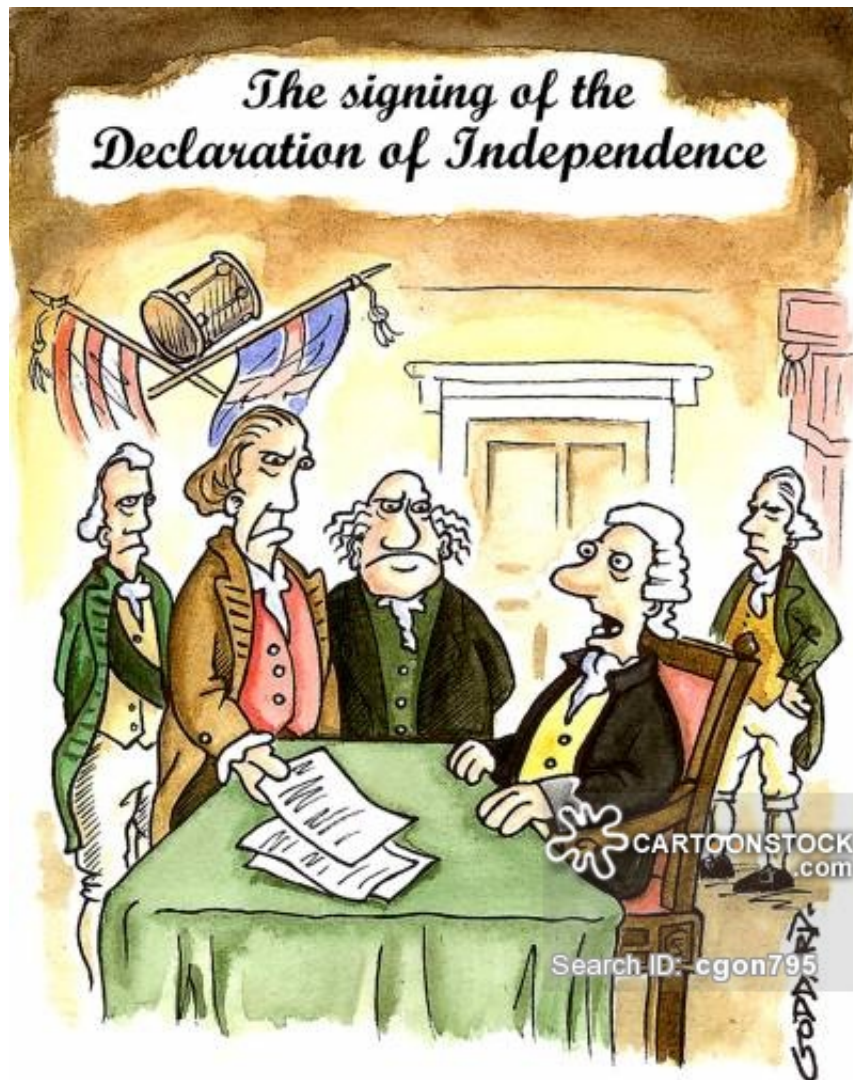


The Important Factor To Establish The Nation

by Tuan Tran - Monday, November 27, 2017, 8:54 PM

The Declaration Of Independence is the key factor to determine the foundation of the new powerful young country. It was signed in 1776 by the group of our Founding Fathers. We can clearly see from the cartoon picture that five historical characters are serious and they have the angry faces. On the left of this picture, there are two flags: American flag and " unknown" flag which maybe represents for the Pennsylvania because as the Wikipedia states " The United States Declaration of Independence is the statement adopted by the Second Continental Congress meeting at the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, which announced that the thirteen American colonies,[2] then at war with the Kingdom of Great Britain, regarded themselves as thirteen independent sovereign states, no longer under British rule. These states would found a new nation – the United States of America". The man on the left gives some paper sheet which can be identified as " declaration papers" and he was staring at the guy who is in the right picture. This cartoon image is interesting because the speech line of the right side man: " Can I borrow a pen?". Moreover, the Declaration Of Independence is so important that causes all characters forgetting to bring a pen with them. In the real events, as The Declaration describes that " Fifty-six men, appointed by their fellow citizens of each Colony, meeting in Congress assembled, determined that the only logical course of action by which they could throw off the yoke of tyranny was to declare the independence and sovereignty of the individual colonies, and join together in a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defence, the security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretence whatever."(Barefoot would, 5). Once again, these guys are famous historical figures and the artist just wants us to focus on five gentlemen. Moreover, only the guy who is going

to sign the Independence papers has a chair while others are standing to enhance the serious atmosphere in the room. I think the pen is also the necessary item to confirm the true liberty of the USA but these guys seem to ignore it. They also express their certain emotions to ready for the future conflict with British Empire.



"Can I borrow a pen?"

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cartoon #3, nailed it!

by Scott Fails - Monday, November 27, 2017, 10:51 PM

Cartoon #3 hits the nail on the head. I believe it speaks directly to the topic of the American Revolution and the most recent forum that we did. The cartoon stating that they are thankful for a "small unobtrusive government that doesn't try to run our lives" coincides with the ideas of those that moved here and sought a new life of freedom and a new less intrusive government. This cartoonist nailed this cartoon and I totally agree

with the story their art is telling. These people were thankful to be free of the overbearing government that they loathed prior to their moving to the United States and this cartoon captures that exact idea.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #3, nailed it!

by Tuan Tran - Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 8:17 PM

I think this cartoon is about the fresh immigrants who came here and survived through out the year praying to God. We are God's people and we only obey to God(we have ancestors from the Church of England), they were worried about the " small unobstrusive government" will impact to their living conditions by asking them join the Continent Army or paying taxes.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #2

by Joshua Sims - Monday, November 27, 2017, 11:04 PM

I'll be referring to the second Cartoon. This cartoon doesnt exactly represent history, because they didnt make a compromise until later, but it most likely shows how both parties have changed and how they are now compromising to get the money. I would say I agree with the cartoon because both parties seem to have come up with the agreement that they will just get half of the taxation from the people.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #2

by Tuan Tran - Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 8:11 PM

It was not indicating to the old history government but to the recent government. However, both old and modern government are trying to get citizen's money to fund their own parties power. I hope that someday an individual party apart from two famous parties will develop the USA in the comfort way.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Cartoon #2

by Robert Taylor III - Monday, November 27, 2017, 11:32 PM

I believe that cartoon number two accurately represents the historical events covered in our class. The cartoon appears to show an American taxpayer flanked by a Republican to the left and a Democrat to the right in what I decipher to be a play on the cost one pays to be represented in Congress.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #2

by Tuan Tran - Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 11:57 AM

The Republican and Democrat Party represents by one elephant and donkey which impresses my feelings- they all try to get the money from tax payers. We are being manipulated by two powerful parties, they take our legal money from us and beneficial themselves. As we can notice from the face of taxpayer, he is so afraid and he cannot stop two animals to put their hands in his pocket. It reminds us to be awake to confront our natural scary things- being taxed.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cartoon #2

by Robert Taylor III - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 11:00 PM

Yeah, It could be interpreted in a few slightly different ways and one could also be like you said to be "awake". When you live in a taxpayer-driven society it is up to us to know what the taxes are going towards.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Change To America

by Brogan Cornish - Monday, November 27, 2017, 11:47 PM

I picked cartoon #3 is explaining how we as Americans once liked having a small government. We also didn't want to have the government interfering with our personal rights and freedoms. The setting of the this cartoon is like before the government started

to interrupt with colonial lives. Also I felt like he was explaining that he didn't like how taxes were being enforced and how taxes were being used.

Joe Escobar



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Change To America

by Tuan Tran - Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 11:50 AM

There was a small government at that period so they less control the people's freedom. Moreover, we want to have our own lives without government involving. This cartoon also reflects not only Puritan dreams but also all American dreams: living peacefully not worried about taxing or fighting with other nations.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #3

by Coty Ferguson - Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 11:28 AM

Cartoon #3 is an interesting cartoon that does in one way grasp the ideals of early U.S citizens and some of the politicians of that era. However those in the cartoon aren't early U.S citizens; they're early colonists, and seemingly pilgrims or maybe puritans, who were very strict with their fellow puritans, so I suspect they wouldn't have as much of an issue with a government that watches its people closely. If the people portrayed in the cartoon had been people in colonial outfits, maybe even blue minutemen attire, it would be more accurate. Now I feel the sentiment is there and people of the UNITED STATES, not the early colonists, would share such a sentiment.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cartoon #5

by Tuan Tran - Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 11:46 AM

I found interesting with this cartoon because social media always be with Hillary Clinton side. As Hillary Clinton Campaign 2016 states that " Clinton and Trump have different ways of approaching media. Trump's campaign is based off of brand awareness (2). His advantage is that his controversial statements and previous celebrity grant him free publicity and buzz across social media. Clinton has to work harder to reach people on social media, but rather than simply building awareness she attempts to convert the viewers with call to actions such as registering on her site and volunteering. In Himanee

Gupta-Carlson's *Re-Imagining the Nation: Storytelling and Social Media in the Obama Campaigns*, she describes how with the onset of the digital age, the entire nation creates stories about candidates from the bottom up. Instead of just television campaigns, Clinton is attempting to create a conversation across numerous forms of social media that make you feel like you're part of the story."(2). All social media except Twitter assist Hillary Clinton by writing the positive stories and comments for her. On the other hand, Trump is criticized by the news and liberalism people but he still stands on the ground to win the final presidential election as we can see the sign "Hillary Clinton.com" in the cartoon which is thrown into the trash can. Not social media or any secret organization determines who will be the next president but it depends on American people.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Cartoons #3, Our Government Then vs. Now

by Kerianne Guza - Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 10:10 AM

The third political cartoon is a family, of what look like pilgrims, praying before eating their Thanksgiving dinner. Back then the government was small and most definitely didn't "try to run [their] lives"; and this is what they are thankful for (Cartoon 3). Looking forward into the 18th century, we see the American Revolution happen. What people wanted was to break away from Britain and its monarchy to form a new government. Theirs was to be self-governed so that everyone citizen could be represented. Thomas Jefferson made a statement during his inaugural speech in 1801, declaring that the government "would respect the powers of the states" and "would be small" (Liberty, Equality, Power, pg. 255). This assured the citizens that the war they fought had made a difference and that America would not revert back to anything that even resembled a monarchy. However, now the government is overwhelmingly large and some people may say that it is "[trying] to run [their] lives" (Cartoon 3). The comment made in this cartoon is a form of sarcasm. The artist is saying one thing about the government, when in fact, they mean the opposite. This is done in a mocking manner that is intended to make one pause to think and maybe even laugh.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2

by Brogan Cornish - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 6:02 PM

Cartoon was very interesting as well. One of the only things that these parties have in common. It's really ironic that they both say in campaign that they will lower taxes. But yet they both need that money to keep their campaign and the political parties happy.

The would like to say they don't want to use tax payers money, but in reality they both need and love that money. Without that money neither party would survive.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Cartoon 2

by Robert Taylor III - Saturday, December 2, 2017, 11:13 PM

Right, the political parties are dependent on the support and tax dollars from their supporters. More often than not the way they go about gaining this is by suggesting that with that support low taxes will follow. This Cartoon seems to play off that.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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