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Creatures of Empire

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Creatures of Empire

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Friday, October 9, 2015, 11:13 PM

This forum thread is for Creatures of Empire posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. 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. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Creatures of Empire

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Who was more Alien? Animals or Europeans?

by [Zachery Brown](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 10:52 AM

I found this topic pretty interesting. The question of who Professor Anderson though were more Alien? The Europeans, or the Animals that they brought with them? I personally would agree with the Professor on this subject. And that is, the Animals would have more so then less, been more alien to the natives. The reason I chose to go this route is because, if you think about it, a human being can only be so strange to another human to a certain point. They all have two legs, arms, a body and a head on their shoulders. So therefore a human isn't all to strange to another. The only difference would have been the way they communicated, dressed, their language and their traditions etc. But when you think about the animals, just put yourself in that position. When you view an animal that you have seen, for the first time, and had no clue it even existed until you layed your own two eyes on it. That is something that catches everyone's attention. It is so strange, the way the animal looks, it's teeth, it's aggressiveness, or non aggressiveness, it's eating habits, friendliness etc. Their is so much more to be interested in then seeing a foreigner. This of course is all my personal opinion, and could be viewed all different types of ways. But I truly think that the natives would have been more str by the strangeness of the Animals over the foreign Europeans. And also a big difference would be how the natives found out what the domesticated animals that the Europeans brought over could help them with in their everyday life. Like what jobs could be done with the new animals and things like that. What you guys think about this particular subject? Would you chose the animals to be more alien to the natives? Or simply the Europeans themselves to be more alien?

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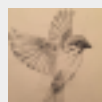
Re: Who was more Alien? Animals or Europeans?

by [Troy Grove](#) – Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 3:33 PM

Zachery, I thought your post was well thought out and written well! I like the point you brought up about

putting yourself in the animals "shoes". To me that brought up a very interesting way of looking at the situation. How about the religious/spiritual side of things? How do you think the indians would have viewed these new animals? Now personally, not growing up with that kind of background in any way and also having pets of my own, I personally don't identify with the Indians at all regarding their beliefs. I can understand their concepts and kinda where they are coming from, but I think I will always look at animals (especially pets) more like property. And then animals such as deer, elk, bear, etc. I wouldn't consider anyone's property and more of just animals in the wild.

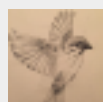
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Re: Creatures of Empire
by [Jacob St. Clair](#) – Sunday, October 11, 2015, 3:49 PM

The English had no control over their livestock (property). This posed a problem for Native Americans. They practiced subsistence farming and relied on their planting fields and surroundings, such as shellfish during low tide, for their survival each year. Stray livestock would terrorize and damage these fields and surroundings. In turn, this would damage the Native Americans. This lead to the killing of livestock, trials of Native Americans, and a new found tension between the English and Native Americans. All because of the English's poor domestication of animals. The Native Americans were shocked how the English treated their animals as property and not as a non inferior being that shared the earth with them. This religious/culture difference could not be overlooked, and King Phillip in turn tried to push the Native Americans farther and farther away to combat this. I have a hard time siding with one or the other. The English did come to an already inhabited land and brought a foreign way of life. But at the same time, I agree with treating these animals as property. We need them for survival, not worship. But that's my biassed opinion. And it seems not much came out of fighting for who was right or wrong. It was a way of upbringing for everyone. So each side couldn't see doing things any other way. It reminds me of today and people's views on guns and gun control. No one's changing anyones minds, just fueling the anger of someone and their upbringing. And look how it worked for the Native Americans and English. The same problems just resurfaced two centuries later. After listening to the interview, I agree with the concept, "Creatures of Empire". The clash of religious/cultural differences, with the domestication of animals being the catalyst of so much tension. I think it's safe to say these "creatures" played an important role in the development of the New World Empire, and unfortunately the slow vanishment of Native Americans.

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Typo
by [Jacob St. Clair](#) – Monday, October 12, 2015, 12:53 PM

Excuse my typo, I meant to say King Philip tried to push the colonists away, not the Native Americans.

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Re: Animals as property vs. Animals as creatures
by [Cole Fritz](#) – Monday, October 12, 2015, 1:15 PM

After listening to the podcast Creatures of Empire, it's clear that the colonists saw and treated animals as their property; compared to the native Indians who saw animals as creatures with spirits and thoughts. These conflicting ideas are due to the religions which each culture practiced, the colonists were predominantly puritans who saw items and land as property that can owned by someone. The Indians were on the other end of the spectrum and saw animals as creatures that could think and had a purpose on the Earth, whether it be to supply food or a spiritual meaning. I agree with both sides, the idea that certain animals are property makes sense when looking at cows, pigs, or horses they all serve a purpose to whomever owns them. On the other side every animal has a brain and can think for itself whether or not it's equal to humans they're still creatures that deserve to live their own lives. The issues that stemmed from these different ideals towards animals can still be seen in today's culture when looking at the treatment of certain animals. For example chickens are mass produced and killed in order to meet the demand for food, but the treatment of these animals cannot be seen as humane. It's a tricky topic, because we have created a culture in which we require certain things from certain animals and it might be to late to go back.

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Re: Animals as property vs. Animals as creatures

by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 2:25 PM

I find it interesting that you brought up that “we have created a culture in which we require certain things from certain animals,” which is accurate. Our main protein comes from cows, chickens, pigs and we domesticate specific animals as pets. In a way this concept relates back to the origins of the having animals as “property.” It seems from the start of colonists living here, our culture today has only modernized the way animals have been viewed.

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The difference of beliefs between the English and Native Americans

by [Troy Grove](#) – Monday, October 12, 2015, 8:24 PM

DeJohn Anderson explains in her interview that the Indians main problem with the new animals brought to the English colonies was they had never seen one of these animals out in the wild without the company of an English settler. They were not 100% sure what it was or even what to do with it exactly. A major difference they had was that the Indians did not quite look at the animals like the English did. The English considered all of their livestock as personal property, while on the other hand the Indians did not value them in such ways. They saw them as living beings sharing the earth and who were different than humans. Furthermore the Indian tribes felt that the animals, especially the ones they hunted, had a strong spiritual and even religious power.

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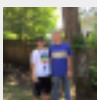
Re: The difference of beliefs between the English and Native Americans

by [Cole Fritz](#) – Friday, October 16, 2015, 3:02 PM

Troy, I liked your description of how Indians felt towards animals compared to the English settlers and how they weren't sure what to do with the animals when they encountered them. This led to a serious problem for the Indians when they happen to come across a foreign animal they were taught to hunt from a young age, so when they saw an animal in the wild killing it was instinct. The English settlers considered this not only to be disrespectful but illegal and therefore the Indians were prosecuted unfairly. The prosecutions were brutal and in favor of the English, because they knew that animals were considered property compared to the Indians who had no clue of this. I believe that these prosecutions were unfair and shouldn't have happened without prior warning to the Indians.

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Re: The difference of beliefs between the English and Native Americans

by [Troy Grove](#) – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 6:35 PM

Cole, do you think that if the Indians had been told/warned that the livestock was actually the English's property that the Indians would have abandoned their own spiritual beliefs of animals and adopted the English belief that they were in fact property? Say that did hypothetically happen, do you think it would've decreased tension between the colonists and the native americans? And do you think that could've prevented wars and killings?

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Property vs. Spiritual

by [Andrea Adelman](#) – Monday, October 12, 2015, 8:56 PM

Native Americans were not introduced to domesticated animals until the Europeans brought them over on ships. In doing so, the Europeans brought their own set of ideas about their animals: they were property, and if anything were to happen to them, someone was to blame. Whereas, the Natives viewed animals as free beings, that were living just like humans, but not necessarily inferior to us. Many animals are even seen as spiritual.

Religious differences and the values of having property are the most upfront conflicts I see. The religions of most

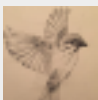
Europeans is very, very different than that of Native Americans. In European cultures, animals were domesticated to assist in farming or transport. In Native cultures, animals are something special belonging to our Earth, and deserve respect.

Personally, I identify further towards the Native American view of animals. If I had the capabilities to hunt my own prey, I would choose to. And in my ambitions, having a farm with animals is what I would love. But, in that sense, I see animals as property of mine, as I likely rescued, adopted, or purchased them...but I wouldn't treat them as such. This is also an issue I see with animals today. If animals reside on someone's property, they are seen as their property. Then, the other side of the coin: if a pet is hit by a vehicle, in many states, you are not required to stop and find the owner, nor is there punishment.

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Re: Property vs. Spiritual
by [Jacob St. Clair](#) – Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 9:12 PM

Andrea, I see what you're saying, but it seems you're siding with the colonists. We're living in a time, that more than ever, we're capable of hunting prey. With weapons meant specifically for hunting, hunting licenses, and designated grounds, you could be out and hunting for your prey in a week if you wanted to.

If you are to rescue, adopt, or purchase an animal, (whether you do or don't treat that animal that way) they'd still be your property. It seems this statement is directed more towards a domesticated cat or dog. As is what you're saying about if someone were to hit one of these animals. As unfortunate as it is, domesticated cats or dogs aren't looked at as much of a commodity as say a cow or pig. If one of these were killed today, like the colonists, the owner would take up on receiving compensation. I think that's where the conflict between Native Americans and colonists beliefs towards animals sprouted. Native Americans didn't see why they couldn't kill an animal if they were destroying their crops. Colonists couldn't see why someone would destroy their property. As great or horrible as it seems, I think we're now just in a time that animals won't be looked at as spiritual beings. Unless you're raised from the get go to believe so, it's not the case. In my opinion, we as humans got to the point we are at now by being a superior species. We need these animals for survival and have the capabilities to make that possible. With the overpopulation of today, only hunting for wild animals wouldn't cut it.

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Europeans, Indians, and animals
by [Rebeca Haro](#) – Monday, October 12, 2015, 11:16 PM

I believe the conflict that Professor. DeJohn Anderson was discussing in the interview was the that the animals that were brought over by the Europeans were not always in their control. Meaning not always locked up or on the farms, they were found feeding off the land where the Natives would hunt for their food, such as deers. So they killed the European's animals, which the Europeans consider their animals like (like pigs and cows) property and the Natives did not. The Natives also saw the animals that lived on the land before European's animals as living beings among them. The animals (like the deer, crow, fox) the Natives viewed spiritual were not consider superior to them.

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History transformed into modern day
by [Kelsey Huber](#) – Friday, October 16, 2015, 11:18 AM

It was really interesting to hear how DeJohn Anderson described the main difference was how each group packaged the animals. While the Indians saw them as “other than human persons” and living beings, sharing the Earth, the English saw them as property. However with animals being their “property”, the English had very little control over them and let them damage the Indians actual property.

Not only did these ways of thinking about animals cause hardship for the Indians, it also got to the point of creating a war. In our textbook, the Metacom War was a clashing over border and proper ways of using the land (pg 81). Without listening to Anderson’s podcast, I would have never guessed animals contributed to this conflict

between the English and the Indians. Anderson says King Philips main concern was that even after they moved 30 miles away, the English still couldn't keep theirlivestock from trespassing.

Coming from the European decent, it's fascinating to see how we have taken both ideals of animals and combined them into the modern day world. We have animals that we share the Earth with and then we have animals that are our responsible to care and provide for. Even today, we face problems with animal abuse, animal attacks and wildlife protection. It comes to show that the history of the "Creatures of Empire", only builds on in modern day society.Now we have rules and regulations that not only take care of our "property", but we have them protecting the wildlife.

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Re: History transformed into modern day
by [Jacob St. Clair](#) – Friday, October 16, 2015, 12:58 PM

Kelsey, you make a very interesting point. I took to what you were saying, "we have taken both ideals of animals and combined them into the modern world today." as talking about how we treat pets today. And I would've never thought how we treat pets today could've stemmed from Native American ideals, and the rules and regulations of our "property" stemmed from European ideals. That's a very interesting way to look at things, and I think it's totally viable. Some of our European ancestors could've admired how Native Americans treated animals. Even though some of these conflicts lead to certain events, like Metacom's War as you mentioned. I see how a small admiration for treating animals like one of us lead to how we treat our pets today. I like that.

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The real problem
by [Jacob Leturno](#) – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 10:48 PM

Dejohn Anderson suggests that the main problem is that Englishmen saw their animals as property whereas the Indians did not, (1:57) video, the Indians believed that the animals were different but not in an inferior way. And that some even had spiritual power and protection about theem such as the deer. (2:50) video. I see a lot of animals in a more spiritual way then in a property way, aside from my “domestic” pets which I feel I see as property due to taking care of them is my responsibility.

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Domesticated animals
by [Jacob Leturno](#) – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 11:03 PM

As many of us here this term we think of our pets who we like, how some may have a dog or some may have a cat. we tend to not think of our food/livestock as a domestic animal our ideas of domestic animals is much different from those of the english settlers. This plays into our current issues of seeing people as equals even when they are the same species. our country has the largest fear of homosexuals its ridiculous.

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Re: Domesticated animals
by [Troy Grove](#) – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 11:46 PM

Jacob, you say "we" tend to not think of our food/livestock as domestic. I disagree with that because especially modern day farmers actually breed many different kinds of animals for the sole purpose of using them for food, therefore basically domesticating them completely over the generations. I would say that people who have true "livestock" these days actually think more in line with the English settlers' thinking of domestic animals and also animals as property too.

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by [Jacob Leturno](#) – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 11:07 PM

I do not agree with this concept "creatures of empire" based on the video and her stating her definition of domesticated animals. i do not eat my pets and i see them as equals, so i would say i fall more into the spiritual side of animals and their places in this world.

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