

HST 203: History of the United States Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238)

Home ► My courses ► Spring 2014 ► HST 203 Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238) ► April 14 - April 20

► Forum 1 ► Conservatism and Censorship

Search forums

Forum 1

Display replies in nested form ▾ Move this discussion to ... ▾

(Censorship and Morality) Next >



Conservatism and Censorship

by Joe Escobar - Friday, April 11, 2014, 11:52 PM

This forum thread is for Conservatism and Censorship posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your posts.

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:
Conservatism and Censorship

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Conservatism and Censorship/PMRC

by Miranda Townsend - Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 12:44 AM

In the article, "Researchers Help Define What Makes a Political Conservative," I agree that at the core of political conservatism is a resistance to change and the tolerance for inequality. The study looked at the idea that "some of the common psychological factors linked to conservatism included the five areas of fear and aggression, dogmatism and intolerance of ambiguity, uncertain avoidance, need for cognitive closure, and terror management."

I think some of these things do come into play , for example avoiding uncertainty makes sense as a underlying motivation to resist change. I think the analogy that liberals are more tolerant of change is accurate.

There are many examples of conservatism being linked with an endorsement of inequality. Some of the most obvious being racial tensions and the allowing of lynchings all the way up until the 1960s. The fact that not only was nothing done about the lynchings,

but that the senate didn't issue any type of formal apology until 2005 was appalling to me.

I found it interesting how the article states conservatives are more comfortable seeing things in black and white than liberals. I don't necessarily agree with this statement, but found it was interesting that to illustrate that point they used president George W. Bush's trip to Italy in 2001. When he was asked to explain himself to the assembled world leaders, he responded with, "I know what I believe and I believe what I believe is right." This obviously has no real backing and it does not answer the question.

If you are a liberal while there is some information that can be checked, however it is pointed out in the article that there is a much larger amount of information available about conservatism than liberalism.

A similarity between the Sapho incident and the PMRC are the attempts of the government to enforce morality upon the people.

They are both examples of conservatism because they were both attempts to hold onto a status quo in society. And as in the Sapho case the publicity of the trial had unintended consequences of drawing a lot of attention. This in turn became a very positive thing for heavy metal because the extra attention made it even bigger than it would have been. The idea that any publicity was good publicity became true in this case. I also found it ironic that the artists welcomed these warning labels because the claim of "explicit lyrics" ensured their albums high sales.

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Conservatism and Censorship

by Britney Painter - Friday, April 18, 2014, 2:09 PM

I liked that in the video, heavy metal bands didn't fight them on putting the warning label on, but accepted it and made even more sales then they already were. I think the heavy metal video had alot to do with the Sapho video and even though they were dealing with different topics, they were dealing with the same issue just in different times. Just like sapho, the bands didnt back down yet went along with it and proved them wrong, just like how it only took 15 minutes for Olga to be proven not guilty.

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Heavy Metal, Conservatism and Censorship

by Serena Williams - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 10:57 AM

I'm not sure which end of the spectrum I fall into still which makes having an opinion about these topics kind of difficult. Also I found the article a little hard to follow but one thing that suck out to me was when it said, "...at the core of political conservatism is the resistance to change and a tolerance for inequality." It helped a little to understand the rough definition if it all. This tells me that being a conservative is all about keeping things the way they are and always have been instead of what's on the other end which is promoting change, for the better hopefully.

I had never heard of this thing between the PMRC and heavy metal bands so this video

was new news to me. It related to the Sapho video because it's about what is acceptable to show the public in certain people's eyes and morality. The difference between them is that in the Sapho video the actress got arrested for playing a part that implied a woman was being sexual but in the PMRC video they had a chance to be questioned and say his side of the story.

I found it all to be really interesting because when the decision was made to require Parental Advisory stickers on the bands' albums, they didn't find it. Instead all the artists embraced the change and made it work to their advantage because it sold them more albums.

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Conservatism vs Hair Bands

by Shane Lundberg - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 9:00 PM

I agree that conservatism is less complex than other political preferences. What I don't agree with is the idea that anyone who is concerned with terror management is labeled conservative. Does being concerned with one's personal safety make them "conservative" or rational? I for one am concerned with national security but by no means do I identify myself as right wing, nor do I think someone that is tolerant to change is automatically a liberal. I have found in my own experiences is that people's political identities will sometimes surprise you. Every human has their own basic psychological needs I don't think it is fair that we get bunched into either the left or the right. That being said, I believe that the research at Berkley is an important step in understanding political boundaries.

The heavy metal video reminded me of the sapho trial. Here is another example of how conservatism attempts to control public morality. It seemed different in terms of the litigation process but the clash of cultures mirrored that of the early 1900's almost perfectly. On one side you have people that feel oppressed by the government and on the other side you have the government trying to control what they say. I think this is a case of pessimistic reformers because they seemed ignorant to the ideology of heavy metal culture. Sapho on the other hand was a single event that had a clear message. Going after an entire genre of music seems like a much more aggressive attempt at controlling public morality.

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Re: Conservatism vs Hair Bands

by Serena Williams - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 10:12 PM

Shane,

You've got a really good point about how people shouldn't be automatically put into these specific categories for their ways and beliefs on certain things such as their safety and changes like you mentioned and I completely agree. I feel the same way, I have opinions on a lot of things about how things are but don't identify as right or left on the political spectrum. Perhaps that is because I don't know enough about either

but maybe it's because I agree and don't agree with things on both sides.

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1

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Government Needs Change Not Conservatives



by Amanda Daniels - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 11:53 PM

I really agree with one of the things that Dee Snyder said and that is that the "PMRC was formed by some senators wives with too much time on their hands." This statement could be said about every single issue regarding censorship. I mean really, of all the problems going on in the world back then, this is the most important issue these women could come up with to try to solve. The only problem I even see is the one they are creating by trying to trying to restrict the 1st amendment of the constitution.

Conservatives don't like change well then they should be running the country cause the only thing that is guaranteed not to change is change itself. Other than that everything and everyone on this planet seems to be changing at an extremely rapid rate. I really don't understand the whole concept of not wanting to change. What is they are implying by having this belief, that our government is so wonderful and fair that nothing else needs to be changed within it. Come on I don't care who you are no one could possibly believe that is true. The only reason I see for not welcoming change as it happens is to allow for the corruption that has existed within our government to continue.

I see political parties as a type of deterrent put in place as a distraction to mask and conceal the most paralyzing and crippling form of economic slavery that society has ever had to endure. The only way to break free from the corruption that plagues our out of control government is change, a change in thinking which is only going to come as often as a change in personal does. Because if it's one thing I have learn in my life is that people in general don't really seem to really change, it's hard to change and it's easy to stay the same. So when you have an issue such as government and its need to constantly be changing in order to function effectively, it is unrealistic to expect that people will be able to bring about any change without changing the people themselves first. It is common practice and often times required when large corporations holding various military contracts will be required to change their staff frequently on their government contracted accounts in order to reduce any one employee gaining too knowledge of sensitive or classified information. I feel this same strategy should be a common practice that is insist on by the people and embraced upon by our government.

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