

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

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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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Thank Goodness, The 80's Ended

by Kenneth Green - Saturday, April 12, 2014, 3:06 PM

I openly admit that I am a Liberal leaning person, so I might view the points of the artical more favorably than someone who would consider themselves a Conservative. The bullet points which sum up the findings of the study, seem to describe the Conservative mind-set fairly accurately from my point of view. They include, "Fear and aggression, dogmatism and intolerance of ambiguity, uncertainty avoidance, need for cognitive closure, and terror management." (MacLay) In fact, these descriptions seems to wrap a bow around almost the entire first decade after 9-11. Wasn't "uncertainty avoidance" and "terror management" the lion's share of all intellectual reasoning for invading Iraq? One could take each point and expand the reactionary elements of modern Conservatism, from everything to arming school-teachers to the dogmatic nature of Congressional Republicans who WILL NOT raise taxes because as one of their leaders put it they want to, "Drown Government in a bathtub." (Except of course the Government programs of their own choosing, such as military spending.)

As a Liberal I do appreciate the parts of the article which take value judgements upon their beliefs out of the mix. That's one thing about being a Liberal is that we know we don't know everything. The world is bigger and more complex than just owning a rigid ideology that claims its world view is the only one, and the right one, damn it! (Notice I call myself a Liberal not a Progressive, because as we learned in Chapter 22, Progressives actually share certain Conservative tendencies to police the correct forms of behavior.) I don't think only Conservatives should read the article, because a study of my political persuasion would reveal just as many quirks (if they were written in bullet points) about our side of the isle. Maybe it's because I'm older but I appreciate Conservatives as friends and neighbors. I'm a Lib, not my job to tell you how to think or live. (Unless of course your Company wants to dump crap in our drinking water lol. It's a debate over subtleties that will never end.)

When it comes to the PMRC censorship issue, I do see similarities between this and the Sapho case. We could even look to the McCarthy era as a continuation of this early century censorship of political beliefs. PMRC is an attempt to squash differences and artistic expression that is seen as too radical. "Our kids are biting the heads off bats! We've got to do something about this!" The unintended consequences are always and will always be limits upon human expression, especially when the censorship is pessimistic about the human condition. Sapho was an Anarchist but a true study of Anarchy is the idea of ending hierarchy as a means of better human cooperation and existence. The early Anarchists lost the argument before it ever started because of their use of violence. But Gandhi was an Anarchist. Dr. King was an Anarchist, both fighting the suffering cause by hierarchy. And both believed in a more optimistic rather than pessimistic type of reform. But I'd have to side with Dee Snyder on this one, the PMRC was just a group of rich housewives with too much time on their hands.

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Sacco/Sapho, Repression/Recession



by Kenneth Green - Saturday, April 12, 2014, 3:49 PM

Wow, huge Correction. Don't make the same mistake I made. The last question is about Sapho not Sacco. Add a bullet point about Liberals: "Don't Read Instructions."

Sum of ratings: (1)

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One Step Closer to the Modern Society



by Linh Tran - Monday, April 14, 2014, 1:53 PM

Considering myself as seeing political issues in a neutral viewpoint in the middle of the spectrum, I see the debate between liberalism and conservatism as neither has an absolute right or wrong. The researchers in the article, however, give the feeling of a more left-sided point of view. The claim-to-be reasons for conservatism are states in phrases such as: "fear," "intolerance," "cognitive closure" – these words are not necessarily negative but definitely not positive. Obviously, looking from their own point of view, the research seems somewhat accurate though I doubt that it should not be limited to only this research and that there would be another "better-for-conservatism" research with the similar accuracy

from the other side of the spectrum. This article would raise an interesting argument between all students who are liberal, neutral, and conservative: liberal students would find the article more agreeable, while conservative ones would oppose more to it.

Definitely that there is a similarity between Sappho and PMRC censorship case, the most similarity is the protest that attracted significant social attention of conservative side toward what they thought to be too radical. The large population of the protestants are, again, these classic participants: middle-class housewives who liberals stated to “have too much time on their hands.” Personally, in these two cases, I found myself lean more toward the left side looking from mindset of a 21st-century person. However, no matter that liberals would see these cases as a optimistic and conservatives would see a pessimistic future, there definitely was a reform in the society: the start of transition from Victorian morality era to a closer-to-modern-time era.

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History Repeats Itself

by Thomas Stevens - Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 2:02 AM

I understand Kathleen Maclay's article, however, I will say that I feel that she and the authors of the study are probably liberal. That said, I agree with it. It takes thought to see the gray scale of an issue, whereas it's very easy, and relatively thoughtless to paint something as black and white. In my Marketing Communication class at [U of O](#), we learned that people are looking for [cognitive shortcuts](#) in decision making, which essentially means that they are looking to reduce the amount of thinking that they have to do. Many peer reviewed papers have concluded that [Liberals](#) tend to be smarter than [Conservatives](#). Also, when you look at college students who attend four-year universities, most lean left.*

I also believe that people are generally afraid of change. I realized that as a young man. Change requires additional thinking to deal with the consequences that inevitably result from the destabilization of a way of doing things. On the other hand, order and rigidity are devices used to lock in a mindset that will reduce the energy needed to deal with change. People used to believe the World was flat, they didn't have any evidence of it, but their religious leaders of their time told them that and rather than think outside that mindset people persisted with that view until Christopher Columbus proved them wrong.

In regards to the [VH1](#) video on the [PRMC](#), where you have the wife of a former Democratic Senator, Tipper Gore, she hails from the South. The South has fought against change since the beginning of its time. Metal music could be considered radical because it upsets the power structure and challenges authority. We all know that from our esteemed professor, Joseph Escobar, that America is not a radical country, and as such this type of music needs to be controlled, if only by a warning label.

Sappho was very interesting because it dealt with the issue of women's sexuality, over a hundred years ago. One of my Marketing professors also at the U of O has stated in one of his classes that the U.S. today still has issues with female sexuality. The difference between now and back then is that long as it is not explicit now it's acceptable. I mean, we don't know that Sappho had sex as we didn't see her have sex, so we can only assume that she did, but of course we know that she really didn't because it was a play. Back then the

idea that women would have sex and enjoy it, well that was Liberal. [Progressives](#) were religious in nature and while they were for the betterment of society, would never have condoned Sapho's sexual behavior.

Nowadays, we have a Duke University student who finances her education with a side porn career that has upset many women because they see porn as degrading to women, regardless of the fact that women make considerably more money than the men of porn. To them it's not about the money. Honestly, I don't know why they would be so bothered by it, I haven't seen a credible argument espoused by anyone. Ironically, the disaffected also include many feminists. Perhaps, because they see porn as something that would only interest men, however, the market for porn is seeing a rapid increase in female customers. #

*<http://content.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1968042,00.html>

#<http://www.sfreporter.com/santafe/article-8173-porn-supremacy.html>

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History Repeats Itself History Repeats Itself



by Kenneth Green - Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 9:24 PM

Enjoyed reading those links, dude. Perhaps the answer is not who is smarter or right. But who is most intellectually curious. Conservatives: "Curiosity killed the cat." Liberals: "Yeah but the cat died enlightened & more sexually satisfied." Debate will rage for ages.

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Re: History Repeats Itself



by Linh Tran - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 9:04 PM

Enjoy reading your thoughts a lot. It is very interesting to think about the cognitive shortcuts that you mentioned. Although, as you said, we are finding ways so that we don't have to think as much as we did, indicating the trend that promises to spread among people, especially the young generation. Also, as we have the percentage of population going to four-year colleges increases over time, that young generation seems more toward the liberal side. So are cognitive shortcuts really a matter of liberal and conservative?

I personally think that not changing is not necessarily a bad thing. There are many cases (but not all cases) that we change to realize the old is better and take time to switch back to what we had.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Conservatism and Censorship



by Marcus Mcphaul - Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 10:21 AM

The most interesting thing about the Sacho case in my opinion is that all the scrutiny she received seemed to come from a minute amount of people, while the majority of Americans including police officers seemed to see the film as very enjoyable. This is not hard for me to believe, America still has the double standard today. While most people enjoy or don't really care for the "immoral" parts of American society today, it is the few traditional people who dislike it that have the loudest voice in our media. I am not saying acts such as Government Spitzer are okay, but there are other politicians are doing much worse things than sleeping around. And with the amount of wealthy men that are caught with a mistress or 2 (or 12) this case is nothing special in itself but a common weakness a lot of men have. So the morality in the U.S. has changed substantially among the public in my opinion, we see this with gay marriage being almost nationally accepted now which was very frowned upon in the early 1900's. But it is those conservatives with the largest voice that try to have things remain traditional, which there is nothing wrong with, but the government forcing there morals onto the public has tended to not work out well. We see examples of this with the Mann act and the prohibition which both caused more bad than good. Americans will find a way to get what they want and if the government won't allow it, this allows criminals to gain huge profits providing the public with a product or service the government doesn't condone.

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Terms Progressive and Conservative are being typecasted



by Austin McQuaw - Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 3:37 PM

It's hard to agree with the article without a very extensive look at it. However it seems that it may be accurate to an extent. Maclay definitely seems biased based on the presentation of this article. A familiar figure of conservatism, Reagan, was related to Hitler and Mussolini, for example. While the author doesn't seem shy about trying to expose conservatism as unfavorable, I feel the presentation was respectful. I assume that there is some legitimacy in their findings, but it's important to be wary of the agenda that covers them. No doubt that liberals are more welcome to change, I agree with the article on that.

Though, I think it's unfortunate that certain beliefs are being grouped with conservative and liberal. I think with the perspective of this article we are probably dealing with a different spectrum than Progressive-Conservative.

The events surrounding Sapho and PMRC are very similar. Both were seen as too explicit and immoral, and in need of adjustment to fit the norms. There was certainly a pessimistic view in both situations. The consequences of fighting either were the same and resulted in the benefit of Sapho and Heavy Metal. Also, the "Explicit" (whatever it said) label was probably a very sad accomplishment for PMRC.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Please Mom cover my ears



by Sherri Patterson - Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 7:23 PM

I think the article could be true to a point. I think it all goes to where you fall on the spectrum. I myself use to think I was a Liberal but I am really starting to realize I am a little in the middle and more conservative. Which fits the stereo type for military personnel. As for the article I do not agree with all that it has to say I myself do not have avoidance issue but I do not like aggression unless it is needed. I am all about equality. I believe we need the welfare system, but it should be used only for temporary purposes and there should be mandatory drug testing. But I think the more conservative you are the more you will definitely fit into Jack Glaser case study.

There is a big difference to me in the case of Sapho and the censorship of PMRC. The Sapho case they were upset at the idea that women having lusty ideas. They never even spoke of it or showed it. It was just a suggestive thought they planted in their head. The PMRC I remember when that was happening. I was a small child that went from watching the Brady Bunch on T.V to having MTV. All the sudden there was different kinds of music and videos to go along with it. Yes the videos where suggestive and so were the lyrics. The American people they didn't know how to take that huge change. And maybe Tipper Gore had "too much time on her hands." But with that time she realized she didn't want children being subjected to that without warning. And I agree. There should be more warning than just a label. And it has happened. Children need to be monitored. If we want our children to grow up to be respectable adults we can't just let their impressionable ears and eyes see just anything. We have to filter it. And to do that we need some way of knowing what is going to be on either music, videos, film. Maybe I am too conservative, but better being that then to have my kids grow up being ill-mannered nuisance to society.

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are we scared of change, or are we just being logical?



by Morgan Reid - Thursday, April 17, 2014, 10:49 PM

Being on the slightly conservative side of the spectrum, there was one specific topic in the Maclay article that I found was worth addressing. The author states that "while most people resist change, liberals appear to have a higher tolerance for change than conservatives." I personally don't think the concept of adjusting to/accepting change should necessarily be generalized by whether or not one is liberal or conservative. I think a person's willingness to accept change should be looked at on an individual level. We all know the "conservative" saying: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Well is that really a conservative standpoint, or is it a logical standpoint? Now, I could see the need for change is a current system just isn't working, or there are strong chances that another way of doing things could work better.

But if there's a system that's worked for years and years and continues to work efficiently, why mess with it? And while I think this article gives us leaning on the conservative side a lot to talk and think about, I certainly don't think anyone on the liberal side should be opposed to speaking up about certain points they may be opposed to. Just because you're on one side, doesn't mean you don't have an understanding of what it means to lean towards the opposite side of the spectrum.

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What is it that worked?



by Thomas Stevens - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 7:48 PM

I do not understand your point. Where are Liberals saying something is broken and needs fixing?

Sum of ratings: (1)

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C &%(*)\$?@*! S, a.k.a Conservatives



by Laura Newman - Friday, April 18, 2014, 7:07 PM

I identify as a liberal, and while I may remain in the gray middle no man's land, it's because I believe extremes of any kind in a political sense are stupid. I take the responsibility of playing devil's advocate to my more soap box debater friends, not necessarily because I don't agree with aspect of what they are saying, but because that are so closed off at times to the possibility of not being 100% right. I'm not a fan of absolutes.

In saying that, I think that the "Researchers help define what makes a political conservative" does paint a picture that conservatives have many collective negative attributes. While I don't for a second think that the author of this article is bias, as a journalist it is with integrity that you should report with an objective opinion, instead I am more interested in which side of the spectrum the researchers and analyzers identify.

So far this group has seemed very left-winged; I mean after all, we are college students. I would be interested in hearing a self-identifying conservative's opinion on these "researched" traits.

One of my favorite things about this history class so far is seeing the cause and effect or as Escobar puts it "unintentional consequences" of history.

Sapho and PMRC are incredibly similar! And much to my satisfaction. Here we have censorship because of morality and righteousness. Those two words together sound directly from doctrine and when religion is thrown into the mix, typically the culprits are conservatives. I also identify as being Christian, although at times, not the best one, but overall, I believe in God. However, I am a liberal, which also means that given my religious belief, I am not one to stop another person from practicing their own religion or feel obligated to help them find some Jesus.

As described in the article, these reactions and need for censorship reaffirms characteristics of conservatives. They are afraid of what they do not understand, much like

the expression in both music and stage performance, so they attempt to damn it in the name of morality, and fail miserably.

In both of these cases, the trials caused even more popularity, media coverage, and consumers of these heathen art pieces. I think, aside from female sexuality, Sapho pissed off critics because she wasn't punished for her actions. Conservatives need closure after all.

This takes me back to a topic that was covered in my film studies class, where we discussed the Production Code Administration (PCA). This was a self-censorship agency that ran from roughly 1915-1967 and instilled ratings, censorship, and housed Catholic board members. No film would be allowed for release if the audience was to side with crime, sin, or wrong doing, typically resulting in the "bad guy" being punished.

For more information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Motion_Picture_Production_Code_of_1930 (The "Do's and Do not" section is a fun read).

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Censorship replaced with the MPAA



by Thomas Stevens - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 7:58 PM

The [MPAA](#) or the Motion Picture Association of America creates an atmosphere of self censorship. While film makers are not required to submit their films to the MPAA, many theaters will not screen a movie without their rating.

The MPAA is supposed to represent all U.S. citizens. However, it's film reviewers/raters are primarily parents, because they are seen as the demographic that would most rely on the rating system that the MPAA created. I would argue that parents have too much influence on movies in the U.S.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Loopholes and children



by Laura Newman - Saturday, April 19, 2014, 9:29 PM

Luckily, production companies, corporate as well as independent began buying up their own movie theaters in order to get past the MPAA. There's always a loophole to be found.

The PCA were bigger pains in the neck, but later became the MPAA, or ratings system. By 1967, film companies weren't listening to the PCA and because of the above comment about buying their own movie theaters, disbanded.

Rating systems are still very necessary, especially for parents that want to monitor what type of media their children are watching and absorbing. When Family Guy first came out, I know many parents that just assumed that it was another popular cartoon. Initially, they didn't watch it with their children to know better, but soon realized the content of that show, which is highly inappropriate

for children. While rating may seem like a nuisance at times, and censorship, it is needed.

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