

Books & Articles - Decline of and Need for American Heritage Education

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Books - Decline of and Need for American Heritage Education

Bennett, William J. *The De-Valuing of America*. New York: Summit Books, 1992.

Bork, Robert H. *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*. New York: Regan Books, 1996.

Cheney, Lynne V. *Telling the Truth: Why Our Culture and Our Country Have Stopped Making Sense--And What We Can Do About It*. New York: Touchstone Books, 1996.

Crismier, Charles. *Preserve Us a Nation: Returning to Our Historical and Biblical Roots*. Gresham, OR: Vision House, 1994.

Durant, Will and Ariel Durant. *The Lessons of History*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1968.

Geyer, Georgie Anne. *Americans No More: The Death of Citizenship*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1996.

Hamlin, Ken. *Pick A Better Country: An Unassuming Colored Guy Speaks His Mind About America*. New York: Touchstone Books, 1997.

Hirsch, E. D., Jr. *Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1987.

Hirsch, E. D., Jr. *The Schools We Need—And Why We Don't Have Them*. New York: Doubleday, 1996.

Lapin, Rabbi Daniel. *America's Real War*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, Inc., 1999.

Olasky, Marvin. *The American Leadership Tradition*. New York: Free Press, 1999.

Podhoretz, Norman. *My Love Affair With America*. New York: Free Press, 2000.

Ravitch, Diane. *Left Back: A Century of Failed School Reforms*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000.

Ravitch, Diane. *The Schools We Deserve: Reflections of the Educational Crises of Our Time*. New York: Basic Books, 1987.

Schlesinger, Arthur M. *The Disuniting of America: Reflecting on a Multicultural Society*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1991.

Skousen, W. Cleon. *The Five Thousand Year Leap: The 28 Great Ideas That Are Changing the World*. Washington, DC: National Center for Constitutional Studies, 1981.

Sowell, Thomas. *Inside American Education: The Decline, The Deception, The Dogmas*. New York: Free Press, 1992.

Articles - Decline of and Need for American Heritage Education

Archibald, George. "'Amnesia' to History Is Called Threat to Liberty." *Washington Times*, 21 May 2003.

Archibald, George. "Dumbing Down, PC Distort U. S. History, Critics Say." *Washington Times*, 5-11 April 2004.

Archibald, George. "Ignorance of U. S. History Is Called Threat to Security." *Washington Times*, 14-20 April 2003.

Associated Press, FOX News. "Public Schools Fail to Teach History, Study Charges." 9 September 2003, www.foxnews.com/printer_friendly_story/0,3566,96865,00.html. The article states, "[The Albert Shanker Institute] report contends students get a distorted account that their country is irredeemably flawed.... The new report says recent studies of text books confirm a 'strong negative bias' about the story of America."

Bay, Austin. "Proud Colors: A Creaking Pulley and An Honored Flag." *Houston Chronicle*, 13 June 1999.

"Beavis and George Washington." *Conservative Chronicle*, 17 July 2000. A report called "Losing America's Memory: Historical Illiteracy in the 21st Century" released by the nonprofit group advocating liberal arts education, American Council of Trustees and Alumni, shows that over half of the 556 randomly selected seniors at elite universities who took a test on American historical facts did not pass.

Beichman, Arnold. "Big why of anti-Americanism." *Washington Times*, October 2004.

Billups, Andrea. "Educational Policy Leaders Urge Better Civics Education." *Washington Times*, 16 May 2000.

Boychuk, Ben. "Without Understanding Civics, Freedom Dies." *Investor's Business Daily*, 24 November 1999. Boychuk states, "'In no country,' wrote Noah Webster, 'is education so general--in no country, have the body of the people such knowledge of the rights of men and the principles of government. This knowledge, joined with a keen sense of liberty and a watchful jealousy, will guard our constitutions.' Today, America's children are barely acquainted with their country, or the principles on which it was founded."

Cabranes, Jose' A. "Our Common Ground." *Wall Street Journal*, 9 June 1995.

Charen, Mona. "Is patriotism out?" *Conservative Chronicle*, 12 July 2000. This article reviews the book, *My Love Affair With America*, by Norman Podhoretz, which explores Podhoretz's Jewish immigrant perspective, both personal and intellectual, of America and how experiences and people in this country have effected him and changed his life.

Charen, Mona. "Losing our history means losing our nation." *Conservative Chronicle*. This article discusses the lack of American history and civic education in American schools, citing the need for such knowledge of ideals in order to establish the cohesive bond among citizens which makes them Americans. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is sponsoring a grant to improve the teaching of American history and to spur many colleges to reinstate history requirements into their curriculums.

Coghlan, Kelly J. "Those Dangerous Student Prayers." *St. Mary's Law Journal*, v32,n4 (2001): 809-880. "Is there danger in allowing genuinely voluntary, faith-based speech to coexist in public schools on an equal playing field with secular speech addressing similar subjects?" (p. 811). This article sets forth a framework to address such legal questions, provides a historical review of faith-based expression within government forums, reviews judicial development and application of the First Amendment to faith-based matters prior to the Santa Fe decision, analyzes the Santa Fe decision and the guidance it offers regarding school prayer and faith-based issues, and sets forth new student speaker policies to comply with Santa Fe. (p. 812)

"College Seniors Fail Test On U. S. History." *Houston Chronicle*, 28 June 2000.

Cooper, Kenneth J. "Students Fall Short In Civics Knowledge, Tests Find." *Houston Chronicle*, 19 November 1999.

Cornell, George W. "Nation's Birth Had Religious Roots." *Houston Chronicle*, 4 July 1987.

Desai, Nicholas. "The Charge of the Academy." *The Dartmouth Review*, 7 October 2005. In response to attacks on remarks made by the college's student body president about Jesus during a Freshman convocation, Desai affirms the right to free speech and the role of the university as a forum to explore and contend with important philosophical issues.

<http://www.dartreview.com/archives/2005/10/07/the_charge_of_the_academy.php>

Dionne E. J., Jr. "Country's Civics Education In A Sorry State." *Conservative Chronicle*, 24 November 1999.

Duff, Anna Bray. "Students Flunk Their Civics Test." *Investor's Business Daily*, 6 December 1999.

Feder, Don. "America's Founding Fathers Were Men of Firm Faith." *Colorado Springs*, February 1993.

Feder, Don. "America was always a lost cause." *Conservative Chronicle*, 12 July 2000. Editorial reviews the movie, *The Patriot*, and how it reflects the fact that the fight for independence, the Civil War, the Cold War, and others have all been causes nearly lost to overwhelming odds many times but, ultimately, have prevailed. The modern American cause, thus, will prevail if we stand for it as Americans have done in the past.

Feder, Don. "For Public Education--America Is History." *Conservative Chronicle*, 27 May 2002. Feder states, "The recently released survey of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (known as the

nation's report card), shows nearly 60 percent of high-school seniors lack even a basic knowledge of U. S. history."

Feder, Don. "Pilgrims Understood Real Source of Security." *Conservative Chronicle*, 21 November 2001.

Feder, Don. "What it means to be an American." *Conservative Chronicle*, 31 May 1999. Editorial offers a checklist of how the author as an American thinks, what he holds dear, what he remembers, what he does for the country.

Fields, Suzanne. "Dawning of a new patriotic era in America." *Washington Times*, 21 April 2003, commentary. With the Vietnam Era past, the new touchstone for patriotism has become terrorism, and, in this reality, patriotism has taken on new meaning and value among a new generation of young people in spite of their education. Nonetheless, the need for education in civic values is greater than ever before.

Fields, Suzanne. "'Losing America's Memory'." *Washington Times*, 24-30 July 2000, commentary. Citing the report by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni in which students performed poorly on a test of basic American historical facts, Field asserts, "An Appreciation for history once was considered indispensable to a democracy" but nowadays is lost as seen in many universities which do not require a course in American history.

Fields, Suzanne. "Raising a Generation of Americans Ignorant of Their Past." *Washington Times*, 2 June 2002.

Finn, Chester E., Jr. *Teachers, Terrorists, and Tolerance*. Observations: Commentary, December 2001.

Flora, James. "The Republic Won't Run On Ignorance." A Speech by James Flora, 1988 George Washington Honor Medial Recipient. New Holstein, WI. Citing a Gallup sample of the lack of knowledge of American history among 17- and 18- year olds, Flora talks about the need to be aware of democratic principles and the role of schools in educating students.

Fonte, John. "How to Make An American." *The American Enterprise*, Sept 2004, vol. 15, no. 6.

"Freedom: Many More People Free Today Than 30 Years Ago." *Houston Chronicle*, 1 January 2003.

Geyer, Georgie Anne. "Time to Refresh Our National Identity." *Washington Times*, 29 May 29 - June 4, 2000.

Graglia, Lino A. "Who Killed the Constitution?" *Imprimis*, Hilldale College, Michigan, May 1988, vol. 17, no. 5.

Greenberg, Paul. "The Fourth of July is the American Idea." *Washington* __, 1996.

Hanson, Victor Davis. "The problem, America, with never looking back." *Outlook*, B11, *Houston Chronicle*, 11 May 2005.

Johnson, Jean Nash. "Oh Say, Can You Sing? You may know the songs but not the stories behind them. Here's a key to five patriotic favorites." Dallas Morning News, 5 October 2001, sec. C, p. 12. This article gives background of songwriters, contexts, interesting facts, and significances of the songs, 'God Bless America', 'America (My Country Tis' of Thee)', 'Star Spangled Banner', and 'America the Beautiful'.

Kagan, Donald. "Why Western History Matters." Wall Street Journal, 28 December 1994.

Khan, Suhail. "Defending the Dream." Washington Times, 3-9 March 2003.

Landers, Ann. "Declaration Signers Sacrificed For All." 4 July 2000.

Lapin, Rabbi Daniel. "America's War of Values: Unity As A Reward, Rather Than As A Goal." Americans For An Informed Public, March 1999. Nothing has the ability to unify people as much as a common devotion to God. Unity is God's ultimate reward for the nation that adheres to His values.

Leo, John. "C Is For Character." On Society, U. S. News & World Report, 15 November 1999. Gallup finds over 90 percent poll support for stressing honesty and other values in schools.

London, Herbert. "Phasing Out Western Civilization." Human Events, 12 June 2002.

The Lone Star Foundation. "Texas State Board Thwarts Texas Education Agency's Effort to Remove Patriotism From Textbook Rules." 20 November 2005.

"Many More People Free Today Than 30 Years Ago." Houston Chronicle, 1 January 2003.

Markley, Melanie. "Legislation Pledges To Teach Kids Patriotism." Houston Chronicle, 5 April 2001.

Noonan, Peggy. "Post-Patriotic America: Why Aren't We Taught Patriotism Today?" Americans For An Informed Public, April 1999.

Patton, Judd W. "Our Founding Fathers Did Not Believe in 'Separation of Church and State.'" Bottom Line Quarterly, Entrepreneurial Leadership Center, Bellevue University, Nebraska, Fall 1994.

"Public Schools Fail to Teach History, Study Charges." (Associated Press) Fox News Channel, 9 September 2003. This article discusses a recent report, "Education for Democracy," produced by the nonpartisan Albert Shanker Institute, that aims to "strengthen the nation's grasp of its own past and present." Drawing praise from groups across the political spectrum, the report, based on textbook studies, research by authors, and other reviews, says students in public schools are getting a negatively-biased view of America. It calls for a more positive, balanced tone of the country as the first modern democracy and of American Heritage.

"Questionable Declaration." Human Events, 19 November 1999.

Reinert, Patty. "What it means to be an American: A New Test For Citizenship Will Stress Concepts of Our History--Not Dates, Names." Houston Chronicle, 1 December 2006.

Relin, David Oliver (as told to). "Why I Came to America: Freedom is A Wonderful Thing." Parade, Houston Chronicle, 2 July 2006.

Richardson, Valerie. "Colorado board endorses motto 'In God We Trust.'" Washington Times. The Colorado Board of Education voted to urge schools to display the national motto to counter the secularization of public education.

Riner, Noah. "Remarks by Student Body President Noah Riner at Convocation Sept. 20, 2005." Dartmouth News. <<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~news/releases/2005/09/20c.html>> (20 September 2005). During the Freshman Convocation at Dartmouth College, Student Body President Noah Riner spoke to the class about the need not only to gain an education and intelligence but also the need for students, as all mankind, to value and gain character. He echoes Horace Mann, known as the father of American public education: "Are we equally sure that schools are forming the character of the rising generation upon the everlasting principles of duty and humanity? Are children so educated that when they grow up they will make better leaders or only grander savages? However loftily the intellect of man may have been gifted, however skillfully it may have been trained, if it be not guided by a sense of justice, a love of mankind and a devotion to duty, its possessor is only a more dangerous barbarian." Riner culminates with a message about the character of Jesus and the need for salvation from sin. While some students opposed Riner's message because of its Biblical content, many others cited Riner's right to free speech among many viewpoints and the crucial role of the university (as an educational institution) as a place to explore and contend with such important, philosophical questions. See "The Charge of the Academy" by Nicholas Desai, The Dartmouth Review (Oct 7, 2005)

Robinson, Matthew. "No Knowledge, No Freedom: Disquieting Results of New Study of Elite College Students." American Scene, Human Events, 30 March 2000. Robinson states, "A new study by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) finds that the disease afflicting education reaches the nation's most elite colleges and universities. ...The danger is that they will be hobbled citizens unable to understand, defend or promote the constitutional principles and framework that make freedom a possibility in the first place."

Sanoff, Alvin P. et al. "What Americans Should Know." U. S. News & World Report. 28 September 1987. Sanoff states, "In recent years, educators have lost the conviction that there are certain things citizens should know. Now, they are having second thoughts. There are widespread cries of alarm that America--a nation founded by men steeped in philosophy and history--has evolved into a land of cultural illiterates. Waves of best-selling books and scholarly reports are making the case that even as Americans go to school more, they come away knowing less."

Scharrer, Gary. "Bill would put course on Bible in all districts: Lawmaker says text is relevant to a moral society." Houston Chronicle, 4 April 2007. HB 1287 (Chisum) says that all public schools in Texas are authorized to offer an objective Bible course elective to students. The Supreme Court has ruled elective Bible courses in public schools as constitutional.

Schlafly, Phyllis. "Teaching History: Fact or Fiction?" August 2003.

Schlesinger, Arthur, Jr. "The Cult of Ethnicity, Good and Bad: A historian argues that multiculturalism threatens the ideal that binds America." Time Magazine, 8 July 1991.

Shults, David. "Witness to Ignorance of History in the Making." Houston Chronicle, 20 May 2002.

Silverman, Joan. "Teens' Historical Ignorance Is No Laughing Matter." Houston Chronicle, 10 May 2000.

"Texas State Board Thwarts Texas Education Agency's Effort to Remove Patriotism From Textbook Rules." Lone Star Report, November 20 2005. The elected State Board of Education rejected Friday an effort to rewrite its textbook selection rules, after board member Teri Leo (R-Spring) discovered that the new rule would eliminate patriotism from the Texas textbook selection process. The current rules, which would have been eliminated by the rewrite, require the board's textbook review panels to consider whether books foster patriotism and an appreciation for free enterprise in deciding whether to recommend books for adoption.

"Textbooks Flunk Test." Washington Times, March 28, 2004, April 5-11, 2005.

Thatcher, Margaret, former prime minister, Great Britain. "The Moral Foundations of Society." Bottom Line Quarterly, Entrepreneurial Leadership Center, Bellevue University, Nebraska, Spring 1995.

Thomas, Cal. "Americans Suffering From Bout of Cultural Amnesia." 3 June 2004. Thomas states, "An ignorance of the past also has political implications. Politicians increasingly rely on an uninformed public to slip through unconstitutional legislation limiting our freedoms. If only for self-preservation we would be wise to reconsider the past."

Thomas, Clarence. "It's A Dirty Little Secret: Freedom Necessarily Entails Responsibility." Americans For An Informed Public, July 1996.

Turner, Allan. "Refugee's haven now his homeland." Houston Chronicle, August 2006.

"U. S. Students Lack History Knowledge." Washington Post, 10 May 2002.

Van Beima, David. "Why We Should Teach the Bible in Public School (But very, very carefully)." Time Magazine, 2 April 2007.

Vazsonyi, Balini. "How Long Will We Remain One Nation Under God?" National Weekly Edition, 19-25 June 2000.

"What Americans Should Know." Horizons, U. S. News & World Report, 28 September 1987.

Weisel, Elie. "Have you Learned the Most Important Lesson of All? Nobel Laureate asks graduates--and the rest of us--to think about what education really means." Parade Magazine, 24 May 1992.

Will, George F. "Ending America's Holiday From History." Houston Chronicle, 27 December 2002.

Will, George F. "Ignoring American History Dims Our Perspective." Houston Chronicle, 23 December 2001.

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Williams, Walter. "Dumbest Generation Getting Dumber." *Conservative Chronicle*, 3 June 2009.