

Re: Retooling the Vision for Space Exploration

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2008-03/msg00004.html>

- *From:* Willie.Mookie@xxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Fri, 29 Feb 2008 16:50:42 -0800 (PST)
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On Feb 29, 11:36 am, simberg.interglo...@xxxxxxxx (Rand Simberg) wrote:

On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 08:12:38 -0800 (PST), in a place far, far away, Willie.Moo...@xxxxxxxx made the phosphor on my monitor glow in such a way as to indicate that:

Good white Christian soldiers roused people from their homes for which they had a deed for, and had organized a government to protect, that was recognized in documents signed by the Federal government. This was done in the dead of winter, putting them on a forced march through a blizzard with laggards being shot, and then those same good Christians gave smallpox infected blankets to those who made it.

That's a myth.

Got references?

<http://www.bradley.edu/las/eng/lotm/TrailofTears/trailparent.htm>
<http://www.cherokeeblood.com/trailtears.htm>

That isn't the soul of Christian kindness. It was done in the name of racial purity.

What's your point? I never said anything about Christian kindness.

By implication you did – repeating myths of your own about supposed Indian savagery as if that prove their culture had nothing of substance to contribute to American culture.

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We don't have to look further than the Spanish inquisition to find people being flayed alive in the name of Christ and put to the torch in the name of Christ.

I missed the part where I was defending the Spanish Inquisition. Can you provide a citation?

You recounted myths about supposed Indian savagery as fact and called it charming – in a way that suggested Indian culture had nothing to contribute to the obviously more civilized American culture. So, it is quite reasonable to point out that American culture draws heavily on European history, and the Spanish Inquisition and other episodes of violence and terror are part of that history.

You fail to see the point now, but seemed to be making one when you recounted horror myths surrounding the Indian culture.

None of this makes Christianity itself evil.

I didn't say it did.

You implied that Indian culture was evil by your statement

Really? You mean like those charming cultures that flayed all the skin off people, keeping them alive as long as possible, or buried them up to their necks on ant hills with honey on their heads after cutting off their eyelids, in the hot sun?

To the extent any of this was actually done – it has nothing to do with the potential that culture has to contribute to American culture generally.

The fact remains it is an historical fact that the US did not honor the agreements we had with the Native Americans, told lies about them to justify our treatment of them, and treated them miserably to the point of war without cause and isolated ourselves from them out of fear and was thus denied the very real contributions to our culture they could have made.

And what contributions would those have been?

See? You know nothing about the culture except horror myths every bit as questionable as the fact that US soldiers purposely spread

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smallpox throughout native American tribes to reduce their numbers. You presume they're a bunch of ignorant savages having nothing of substance to contribute to modern culture or life.

I suggested two books earlier. I suggest you read them.

also

Dancing Between Two Worlds: Jung and the Native American Soul (Jung and Spirituality) (Paperback)

I suggest, at the very least,– with a vital and powerful native American culture and ethos – addiction and alcoholism and drug use would not be on the scale they are today.

The US embracing the multi-culturalism implicit in our founding documents would have prepared us well for the challenges of the 20th century and likely have avoided our involvement in the European wars in the first half of that century and given us treasures we can scarce imagine.

There is no multi-culturalism implicit in our founding documents.

I suggest you read this from the United States Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness

And that Amendment 1 of the Bill of Rights be examined

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Multi-culturalism is currently destroying Europe.

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That's because there's no real solution – which would have been created in America had the Sioux claims in Georgia been honored by Jackson.

I submit that it is the western reaction to the challenges of multi-culturalism that is destroying Europe. That fear of multiculturalism is destroying Europe. That lack of understanding and a valid model is destroying Europe.

Had the US lived up to its promise to the people who lived under its jurisdiction in the 19th century the US would have forged an exciting and vibrant solution to what some historians called at the time the Omega Point – a time when all cultures come into contact. We would have been the role model.

Contact does not mean conflict, though in the absence of mutual respect and multi-cultural society – its hard to concieve of such an outcome.

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