

Re: Retooling the Vision for Space Exploration

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2008-03/msg00007.html>

- *From:* simberg.interglobal@xxxxxxxxxx (Rand Simberg)
 - *Date:* Sat, 01 Mar 2008 02:08:24 GMT
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On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 16:50:42 -0800 (PST), in a place far, far away, Willie.Mookie@xxxxxxxxxx made the phosphor on my monitor glow in such a way as to indicate that:

On Feb 29, 11:36 am, simberg.interglo...@xxxxxxxxxx (Rand Simberg) wrote:

On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 08:12:38 -0800 (PST), in a place far, far away, Willie.Moo...@xxxxxxxxxx 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>

Without reading the links, is there anything in there about giving them smallpox-infected blankets?

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That's what I was referring to.

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.

The point wasn't that their culture had nothing to contribute. My point was that their culture was bloody, and the notion that adopting it would have somehow precluded wars was lunacy, absent any actual arguments as to why it would have done so.

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.

American, if you mean US, has drawn almost nothing from the Spanish Inquisition, or European history. If you want to see cultures that have done that, you have to look south of the border. US culture is largely Anglo Saxon. The US is part of, and the leading member of, the Anglosphere. It is very different from the culture of Europe.

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

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None of this makes Christianity itself evil.

I didn't say it did.

You implied that Indian culture was evil by your statement

Again, I implied that it was silly to claim that by incorporating it, we would have avoided wars or violence, which seemed to be your nutty claim.

The fact remains it is an historical fact that the US did not honor the agreements we hed 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 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 know many things about them, but we still await your substantiation of your nutty claim.

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

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

I've done so, many times.

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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

How in the world does that support multi-culturalism? It certainly doesn't support (just as one example) Islam.

Multi-culturalism is currently destroying Europe.

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.

The lack of understanding that Europe must embrace sharia law is destroying Europe?

You're nuts.

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