

Re: Retooling the Vision for Space Exploration

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2008-03/msg00013.html>

- *From:* Willie.Mookie@xxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Fri, 29 Feb 2008 22:46:16 -0800 (PST)
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On Feb 29, 9:08 pm, simberg.interglo...@xxxxxxxx (Rand Simberg) wrote:

On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 16:50:42 -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:

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.

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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?

Actually reading factual stuff is harder than repeating canards? lol.

Smallpox followed trade routes. These trade routes had been operating for a long period of time, distributing valued goods to native Americans in return for buffalo skins, animal furs, and so forth.

These had always been a source of communicating European diseases into the Indian nations. Nothing unusual with that. The germ theory of disease had just been proposed. Jennings had just developed vaccination. Groups were going around inoculating Indians, expert opinion was that a slow infiltration of Europeans into the West combined with an inoculation program would end the decimation of the American Indians that were ongoing since 1492.

One season, preceding the changes in law, and policy that led eventually to the Mexican American war, and US movement West, there was a tremendous increase in the Small Pox – following shipments of blankets and other goods of the Yellow Stone.

So, all elements were in place. The germ theory of disease was well known, the American Indians were going to survive in large numbers if they could be inoculated against the diseases they had no natural resistance to, if our expansion was gradual.

Jackson decided to push quickly westward, and trade routes that had carried diseases at rates that were tolerable, and in fact actually increased resistance over time – became deadly sources of plague – traceable to single shipments handled by specific trading companies that were recently established with no long term involvement in the trade..

Unless there is a confession of insiders, no secret operation leaves evidence to indict those who organized it. You know this, hence your insistence on 'evidence' that you know cannot exist. So, you call it myth. The evidence however is clear. Having lost about half their number, due to european diseases for which they were ill prepared, the native Americans were forced to re–locate into the Westward frontiers

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and remain isolated as their numbers declined. When the germ theory of disease was discovered, do-gooders went West to inoculate native Americans. Other experts estimated that one half to one third of the original population of native Americans would ultimately survive. In response, the US government reversed its decisions related to isolating native Americans, signed legislation to attract the poor and destitute to the frontier (at the time they were thought to be harbingers of disease) and trade goods that were innocuous for generations (people in European style settlements – in close proximity with poor public hygiene transmit disease) – turned strangely toxic.

That's what I was referring to.

Yeah, I know, and I know that the 'myth' as you call it was the result of a secret operation – and that such operations leave no evidence you would not call myth. Obviously the statistics speak for themselves.

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.

That is a prejudice based on ignorance.

My point was that their culture was bloody,

The lies told by Europeans about native American culture, the lies you repeat here, seemed bloody.

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and the notion that adopting
it would have somehow precluded wars was lunacy,

No it isn't. The defeat of Switzerland in the Swabian war in the 16th century led to a situation where there was a national decision to not engage in warfare ever again. In that age, because of that defeat Switzerland enunciated a vision for itself that did not involve warfare. Defense yes. Warfare no. It has lived in peace ever since – despite wars throughout the Swiss Empire prior to that time.

By the same token, defeat at the hands of the Europeans, the Europeans being white, and the White Maiden/White Buffalo as the bringer of mystical power, and the corruption of those warriors who looked upon the White Maiden with lust, combined with the pandemics caused by European diseases in native American communities – all led to a similar sort of insight in native American culture. Despite the breast beating of wannabe American heroes, native Americans pretty much did what they were told. This too was used to indict them. When they stood up for themselves and their culture, they savages. When they did what they were told, they were worthless ignorant excuses for men. When they explained their reasoning, they were superstitious primitives.

Had American culture embraced native American culture and saw the value in it, and in the people – as some intellectuals of the time did – our culture would be quite different indeed. Just as Switzerland's history is quite different than that of the rest of Europe.

absent any actual
arguments as to why it would have done so.

Well, I've given you the facts above.

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?

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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.

I should have used the term Medieval Inquisition! lol. I used the term Spanish Inquisition to mean that. Sorry.

The Medieval Inquisition is a series of Inquisitions carried out by the Roman Catholic Church by special bodies charged with suppressing heresy. The Spanish Inquisition was particularly vile, due to the money that was made by the torturers, and particularly noteworthy because the Spaniards didn't disband it until the 1820s!!.

Yet all European nations underwent Inquisitions from around 1184, including the Episcopal Inquisition (1184–1230s) and later the Papal Inquisition (1230s). Much of our legal terminology and procedures derive from these procedures (defendant evidence, testimony, etc.)

It was in response to large popular movements throughout Europe considered apostate or heretical to Christianity, in particular Catharism and Waldensians in southern France and northern Italy. These were the first inquisition movements of many that would follow.

The Medieval Inquisitions were in response to growing religious movements, in particular the Cathars first noted in the 1140s and the Waldensians starting around 1170, in southern France and northern Italy. Individual "Heretics", for example Peter of Bruis, had often challenged the Church. However, the Cathars were the first mass heretical organization in the second millennium that posed a serious threat to the authority of the Church.

Ultimately, popular disgust of the excesses of the inquisitions gave rise to protestantism that opposed the Catholic Church and gave rise to the modern secular state throughout Europe.

If you want to see cultures that have done that, you have to look south of the border.

You're a racist fool. You see the word Spanish and you think it has some racial connotation. I merely called it Spanish Inquisition because Medieval Inquisition isn't as often used. haha.. I guess

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the Monty Python sketch had an impact on me! lol.

US culture is
largely Anglo Saxon.

The Peterborough Chronicle contains information about the history of England after the Norman Conquest.

it relates the events of The Anarchy in England. It is a highly moving account of torture, fear, confusion, and starvation.

Henry I died in 1135, and Stephen and Matilda both had a claim to the throne. The barons rebelled against Stephen, and Matilda escapes. The soldiers of the baronial powers inflicted torture upon the people. King Stephen is blamed for the Anarchy for being "soft and good" when firmness and harshness were needed.

Stephen would capture rebellious barons who would then be released by merely pledging allegiance to Stephen.

The barons were robbing everyone they could to build great castles for themselves, which led to public unrest..

"æuric rice man his castles makede and agænes him heolden; and fylðen þe land ful of castles. Hi suencten suyðe þe uurecce men of þe land mid castelweorces; þa þe castles uuaren maked, þa fylðen hi mid deoules and yuele men. Þa namen hi þa men þe hi wendan ðat ani god hefðen, bathe be nihtes and be dæies, carlmen and wimmen, and diden heom in prisun and pined heom efter gold and syluer untellendlice pining; for ne uuaeren næure nan martyrs swa pined also hi waeron."

("Every chieftain made castles and held them against the king; and they filled the land full of castles. They viciously oppressed the poor men of the land with castle-building work; when the castles were made, then they filled the land with devils and evil men. Then they seized those who had any goods, both by night and day, working men and women, and threw them into prison and tortured them for gold and silver with uncountable tortures, for never was there a martyr so tortured as these men were.")

The monastic author of the Chronicles sympathises with the average farmer and artisan and talks about the devastation suffered by the countryside. He is outraged by the accounts of torture he relates and laments,

"Me henged up bi the fet and smoked heom mid ful smoke. Me henged bi the þumbes oþer bi the hefed and hengen bryniges on her fet. Me dide cnotted strenges abuton here hæued and uurythen it ðat it gæde to þe haernes... I ne can ne I ne mai tellen alle þe wunder ne all þe pines

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ðat he diden wrecce men on þis land."

("One they hung by his feet and filled his lungs with smoke. One was hung up by the thumbs and another by the head and had coats of mail hung on his feet. One they put a knotted cord about his head and twisted it so that it went into the brains... I neither can nor may recount all the atrocities nor all the tortures that they did on the wretched men of this land.")

Death and famine followed, as the farms were depleted and farmers murdered. If two or three riders came to a village, the monk said, everyone fled, for fear that they were robbers. Trade therefore came to a standstill, and those in want had no way to get supplies. Those travelling with money to purchase food would be robbed or killed along the way. The barons said that there was no God. The chronicler records that people said openly that Christ slept, along with His saints; he states that "this -- and more than we can say -- we suffered 19 winters for our sins."

After the account of The Anarchy, the chronicler goes on to church matters. He speaks of the abbot Martin, who replaced the illegitimate Henry, as a good abbot. Martin had a new roof put on the monastery and moved the monks into a new building. He also, according to the author, recovered certain monastic lands that had been previously held "by force" by noblemen. Which lands these are is unclear, but they had probably been claimed by the nobles through the practice of placing younger sons in monasteries, making and revoking gifts of land, and by some early form of chantry. The Chronicle ends with a new abbot entering upon the death of Martin, an abbot named William. This abbot presumably halted the writing of the Chronicle.

The US is part of, and the leading member of,
the Anglosphere. It is very different from the culture of Europe.

No its not! We have clear connections to Rome! England was part of the Roman Empire at one time, and England pledged allegiance to the Catholic Church until Henry the 8th wanted a divorce! lol.

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.

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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,

This is a statement made from the depths of your ignorance and prejudices. Look at the result of the Swabian defeats for Swiss history. Look at the insights of the religious leaders of native American culture following the decimation of native American peoples and their warnings of the excesses of 'white' culture.. Had we taken the path outlined by some intellectuals at that time we may have well come into the 20th century with the spiritual qualities necessary to assume peaceful leadership of the world.

which seemed to be your nutty claim.

It only seems nutty because you cannot see past your prejudices which are informing you wrongly about culture and history.

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,

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Nothing factual unfortunately. That's the trouble with prejudice. You think you know all you need to know about a people – and in fact you know less than nothing.

but we still await your substantiation
of your nutty claim.

Read a damn book on the subject! haha.. I don't have time to write the whole damn thing here for your lazy butt! lol.

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.

Without understanding obviously. So, was Jackson within his legal rights to force the Sioux (in the dead of winter, when he could've waited for Spring) out of Georgia?

Or did he exceed his power?

Did the Sioux have any rights in that day and age? Legally speaking?

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?

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How does it give President Jackson the right to send troops into Georgia and take land away from a duly constituted authority who has a valid deed for that land and put them on a forced march in the dead of winter?

It certainly doesn't support (just as one example) Islam.

It prohibits the government –among other things– to make any law with respect to religion. That's supportive of religious diversity wouldn't you say?

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?

haha.. you think that by speaking at cross purposes and throwing in a few red herrings you can win an argument you don't even understand. lol.

People cannot escape their character. A people's character is molded by the deep insights their culture allows them. The defeat of the Swiss during the Swabian war led to an insight about warfare that molded the character of the Swiss people ever since. The decimation of the native American tribes at the hands of European settlers (Britain is part of Europe friend! lol) led to similar insights in that culture that changed the character native Americans in the 18th century in ways that could have led the US to a greatness in the 20th century for all Americans – had we embraced those insights.

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You're nuts

No I'm not. You are, and don't want to see it, so you make judgments against me.

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