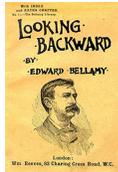


STUDY CIRCLE – WINTER 2019

Visions of America

Meets Tuesday Evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm
1407 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara



Diverse expressions of the distinctive visions of America nurtured in American history will be studied. The ideas and ideals of the Founding Brothers, such as Jefferson, Paine, and Franklin will provide a framework for focus on the aims and purposes of the American experiment. The distinctive visions of the Transcendentalists, Progressive Reformers, and cultural innovators in literature, art and music will be explored. How the development of educational opportunities and civic participation drew out the potential for individual freedom and social progress will be analyzed. The expansion of an inclusive global vision embedded in the promise of American ideals will be evaluated. See website for readings: <http://www.worldculture.org>

The Influence of the West on Visions of America

April 2, 2019 – The Vision of National Parks and of John Muir

The rush to civilize nature in the 19th century led to a devastating loss of wildlife and habitat across America. John Muir spoke out courageously for the preservation of forests, lands and wildlife and became a leader in the conservation movement, inspiring the development of the national parks.

April 9, 2019 – Impact of the Frontier on the American Imagination, Part 2

How the frontier and the West continue to be, after the Civil War, both imaginative ideals and sources of practical, self-reliant life-styles far from the urban centers of modern American life will be discussed. Cowboys and stories of Mark Twain reflect the values of frontier living.

Reshaping the Public Space in America

April 16, 2019 – The Nationalist and Socialist Vision of Edward Bellamy

A review of the writings of this visionary, particularly his novel, *Looking Backward*, reveals a provocative possibility of a society free from poverty and inequality. Readers flocked to join Nationalist clubs that sought ways to turn the vision into a reality. This vision became controversial when labeled socialism.

April 23, 2019 – Women's Suffrage Movement

It took women 72 years of organized political activity to gain the right to vote. How did 4 generations of American women establish this Constitutional protection? They invented a method of direct action and courageously confronted intense opposition.

April 30, 2019 – Jazz and Popular Culture

Clips of the wonderful PBS documentary on Jazz will be shown and comments offered on the relevance of jazz to the vision of America.