

Week 14 Introduction to Reading

Patrick Buchanan, excerpt from *Death of the West* (2002)

Although during his 1992, 1996, and 2000 runs for the presidency conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan touted himself as an "outsider", he has lived and worked in Washington, DC nearly all of his life--for three presidents, as well as for the media. He has gotten a great deal of attention for his "America first" views, challenging trade, immigration, and foreign policy. He has been accused of racism, fascism, and anti-semitism by his critics--you can judge for yourselves. Last year as I was gathering materials for teaching 21H.912, Buchanan was on the talk-show circuit promoting this book, which seemed to challenge my approach to history. Therefore, it seemed a logical conclusion to the semester. For more information on Buchanan, you can visit www.theamericancause.org or www.buchanan.org to see the archives from his last presidential run.

Week 14 Questions

1. What is the "West" to which Buchanan refers?
2. Who defines what is American?
3. How does Buchanan define decline?
4. Does W.E.B. DuBois have the answer to Buchanan's problem?
5. On p.100 Buchanan laments that immigrants from the Middle East and N Africa will "pour into Europe" and "create replicas of their homelands in the heartland of the West." How is this any different from what Anglo settlers did in North America? What would John Locke have to say on the subject?
6. Are European nation-states as homogenous as Buchanan alleges?
7. What is the relationship between memory and history?
8. Does Prof. Russell love or hate America?
9. Should students ever get a critical reading of history, and if so, at what age?