

## INTRODUCTION TO UNITS 1, 2 & 3

### WASHINGTON IRVING, NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE & EDGAR ALLAN POE

Period (reelection James Monroe 1820 to Compromise of 1850) --> United States much to itself = contacts with Europe slight

From Revolution --> self-trust & expansion (advanced & contravened the other) --> nationalism (provincial)

James Monroe: "The American continents are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers".

Monarchy became symbol of all Americans hated --> respect for & reliance on the idea of Union (egocentric Americanism) & Federal Constitution = two great bulwarks of the Republic

Puritan thesis = United States had been set apart by divine Providence --> a chosen nation --> concern of the American people for welfare of all mankind gave dignity to this theory of *manifest destiny* & feeling of self-righteousness  
Among older men of letters --> Irving and Cooper groped for security (abroad & at home) <--> Young men put trust in themselves & new world (Hawthorne, Emerson, Thoreau)

1820 to 1850 = westward migration (30 times the land of British Isles)

Population rose (9 million in 1820 to 23 million in 1850)

Sectional differences in agrarian-industrial conflict (North-South)

Value of industrial property doubling every ten years --> factory glorified by capitalists as a Utopia <--> Americans = agrarian-minded

Stronghold of democracy = new West --> backwoodsmen & farmers  
 radicalism of left-wing Jeffersonians & Shay's rebellion (1828 Jacksonian  
 Democracy)

President Jackson destroyed National Bank & equalitarian practices (frequent  
 elections, increase of elective offices & rotation in office)

Religion = self-trust --> voluntarism, secularization & sectarianism

Separation of church/state in 1833 (Massachusetts) --> minorities shaped new  
 religions to fit their own needs = transcendentalism --> New England  
 intellectuals (reject rationalism & Calvinism) --> divinity of man

(Transcendentalist Club, *Dial*, William E. Channing & Ralph W. Emerson) -->  
 Emerson = individualistic tendencies by intuition, Platonic idealism & self-  
 reliance (Split of Baptism and Methodism)

Humanitarianism may have helped to unify American society, but provoked  
 dissent and acrimony --> Temperance movement (1826)

What shall be the final attitude of the United States toward slavery?

In realm of public affairs, period began & ended in compromise

Claims of nationalism & sectionalism, industrialism & natural rights, slavery  
 & will of God, equality & stake in society, revivalism, public improvements,  
 emancipation of women, manifest destiny, progress.

After Missouri Compromise of 1820, Compromise of 1850 & Compromise of  
 1850, Civil War was inevitable