

Notes from the Underground

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The Historical Underground

This Month in History

Native American Heritage Month

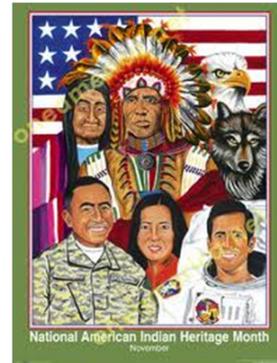
Since 1990, November has been declared Native American Heritage Month. If you are part of the Native American community in some way, you are well aware of the many activities on the local and national level that celebrate American Indian history throughout the month of November. Unfortunately, unlike other heritage months (such as Black History Month), very few people are even aware that our nation recognizes Native Americans. Unlike Black History Month, which is given rightful air time on numerous media outlets from MTV to cable news, American Indian history is rarely offered any air time in November or any other month.

The media alone are not to blame for this lack of awareness. We have been fed this myth since elementary school that Indians "used to live here until Columbus "discovered" America. Then they all died

or moved to reservations, but not before teaching the Pilgrims to fertilize their crops. Even college-level instructors convince themselves it is OK to reserve discussion of Native peoples to the beginning of history class and the nineteenth-century Indian removal. By refusing to dig deeper into the narrative and include the experiences of another racial group, we perpetuate this myth of extinction and resignation.

In a month where the central holiday celebrates the idea of cooperation among "primitive" Native Americans and ambitious Pilgrims peacefully sharing a meal before the Natives' impending doom, let's instead talk about pivotal moments in Native history beyond Plymouth. I challenge all of us this month to learn something about the Red Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s, Native

American patriots who fought for our nation's independence, or even Native experiences on contemporary reservations. Hopefully someday the month of November can be a celebration of the *entire* history of Native peoples, not just their contributions to early European settlement.



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Voices from the Past

Cochise

Cochise was a charismatic Apache chief, who led various rebellions against American and Mexican transgressors from 1860 to 1870. Along with Geronimo, Cochise is one of the most famous Apache leaders because of his passion for his people and domineering presence, despite never being photographed. Like most Apache bands, Cochise utilized guerilla-style warfare to repel foreign forces, especially after the development of advance firepower, such as the howitzer. After 10 years of continued

struggle and strife against what seemed like an ever-pressing American force, Cochise was captured and lived the remaining years of his life on a reservation. When Cochise passed away from natural causes, he was buried by his family and close friends in an undisclosed site on his homeland. The life and struggle of Cochise is revered in Native American history and American popular culture as the subject of the movie, "Broken Arrow," and the song, "Cochise," by the band, Audioslave.

"You must speak straight so that your words may go as sunlight into our hearts. Speak Americans ... I will not lie to you; do not lie to me." - Cochise



Historical Novels

“The misery was unlike anything they could have imagined. . . .”



Have you ever tried to imagine what a typical day in the life of a soldier in the trenches of World War I was like? When the conflict erupted in the summer of 1914, nobody could predict the massive amount of destruction that the world would endure. In fact, many soldiers believed they would be home for Christmas. However, after it was all said and done, the conflict consumed five years and devoured 20 million people from various countries around the world. In one of the greatest war novels of all time, Erich Remarque’s

Life in the Trenches

All Quiet on the Western Front vividly depicts the lives of German soldiers who experienced the brutal reality of war.

This picture depicts the daily routine soldiers from many countries experienced while the conflict dragged out. The misery was unlike anything they could have imagined. Lice were uncontrollable, and rats feasted on the decomposing bodies at night. Luckily, gas masks became more frequent as the war drudged on, but the unfortunate souls who fought before this equipment emerged faced mustard and chlorine

gas that blistered their skin and lungs. It was atrocious! What is worse, on the Western Front, where the Germans and French faced off in what has become known as a no-man’s land, millions of people died by machine gun as the commanders of each side sent their men off to die in impossible situations. Life as a soldier in the trenches of World War I was so horrid and chaotic that it made the few survivors question the old traditional loyalties they had to their country.

If this interests you, this book is for you.

Random Rants

Joseph Huber

“The level of unity is something I will always remember when the word ‘occupy’ comes to mind.”

In response to the Occupy Wall Street movement, anti-corporate protests have sprung up around the country. On October 6, the movement came to Fort Worth, where I found myself expressing discontent with government welfare for corporate interest.

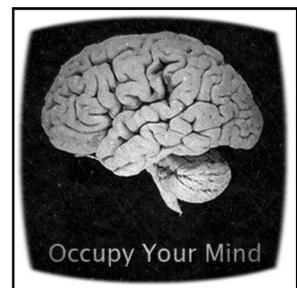
When I arrived, more than 60 demonstrators had already rallied outside a Bank of America to voice their opinions against corporate lobbying and government bailouts. At Burnett Park, I had a chance to meet a variety of people, each with different reasons for joining the movement. People

Inside the Occupation

present were those affected by the recession, students upset with the massive loan debt, and those who felt that capitalism itself is to blame.

The General Assembly meeting I attended was a leaderless democratic engagement called to address the long-term occupation of Burnett Park and cover the organization of committees within this branch of the movement. Committees were organized to create signs, bring food and water, and even to address the proper legal issues. When I left Burnett Park that day, I left with a deeper understanding of the impor-

tance of civil disobedience. Moreover, despite the differences in beliefs and reasons for attending, the level of unity was something I will always remember when the word “occupy” comes to mind. The 99% will not remain silent.



Historical Movie Review

"The Motorcycle Diaries"

"The Motorcycle Diaries" chronicles the life of a young man named Ernesto, who saw himself as a child of his environment. Growing up, Ernesto wanted nothing more in life than to be successful. The desire for success drove this young man to excel in academics because that's what his parents, family, and society expected of him. Soon enough, he entered medical school with aspirations of becoming a successful physician. While in school, Ernesto and his friend Alberto decide to embark on an epic road trip throughout Latin

America on a motorcycle. Weathering rough roads, hungry days, and rambunctious nights, the two young men see a side of Latin America they had never seen before. They see poverty, hunger, and disease affecting the majority of people they encounter throughout Latin America. While visiting a leper colony, Ernesto is overwhelmed with a deep desire to help those in need. The Ernesto in this story is Ernesto "Che" Guevara, a revolutionary who played a major role in the Cuban Revolution. Che decided

to give up what society expected him to be and became who he wanted to be.



Conversations with History

Greg Kosci

Where did you get your Ph.D.?

The University of Texas at Arlington.

How did you find out you wanted to be a historian?

As an undergraduate I was interested in economics, French, and history, and history was the one discipline that allowed me to pursue all three.

What are your academic interests and fields of expertise?

Economic and cultural history. I am particularly interested in globalization and identity construction. For example, my dissertation analyzed British travel accounts of the American West in order to understand how the British constructed their identities. In the nineteenth century, travel accounts such as these were churned out at an amazing rate as global investment and tourism exploded. While my work is grounded in the past, it has also helped me better understand modern capital flows, travel, and identity construction.

Give us a brief bio of your family.

I hail from Massachusetts but have settled here in Texas. My wife, Kallie, who is also a history professor here at TCC, is from the Staked Plains of West Texas. We enjoy mowing down tumbleweeds on 287.

What do you think students can gain most from taking your class?

My overarching goal is for students to improve their critical thinking and writing skills. These are skills that will benefit them no matter what profession or goals they end up pursuing.

What do you think history in general can do to improve the lives of our students?

History classes provide students with the basic skills and facts to understand the modern world so that they can begin crafting their worldview. So often our cultural figures and politicians try to misrepresent our history in order to

justify a particular agenda, but history classes provide students with the power of knowledge so they can begin sorting out fact from fiction and become better informed citizens.

What do you like about TCC?

I think there is a real collective purpose among everyone at TCC to foster student achievement and that inspires me.

What is your general philosophy of history?

I believe that economic forces drive history.

Finally, if you could have a conversation with anyone from the past, whom would it be and why?

Alexander Hamilton. I would love to pick his brain about our current economic and political situation. Hamilton was no stranger to economic crises and bitter partisanship, and I wonder what he would have to say about America today.

"History classes provide students with the power of knowledge so they can begin sorting out fact from fiction."



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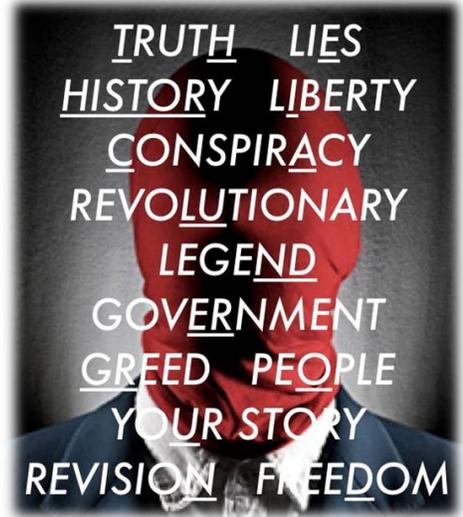
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“HISTORY IS OUR WEAPON OF CHOICE”



Join Us: Tuesdays/5:30pm/ESEE 2131

Contact: Bradley.borougerdi@tccd.edu



Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

First off, we would like to thank you for reading this material. It has been brought to you by the newly revamped organization on Tarrant County Southeast campus: The Historical Underground. We have been having weekly meetings since the start of this semester, and this newsletter is the much anticipated fruits of our labor. There is only a small group of us, but we have dedicated our time and efforts to providing the campus with a free monthly collection of interesting (if not useful) historical information. Titled “Notes from the Underground,” the project includes pieces written by members and faculty sponsors of the organization.

Although we do not expect to have a large readership at first, our goal is to publish more and more copies as the months go by and people become more familiar with our work. It might be difficult to find copies at first, but we plan to disperse them in areas of the campus that have high student traffic, so be on the lookout. If you are interested in history, then we are convinced that you will become an avid reader. Hopefully you will enjoy the material so much that you will decide to become a member yourself, and perhaps contribute to one of our sections every once in a while. We are very excited to serve your interest in history and hope to foster a love for the

subject on campus like never before. Thank you so very much for your support, and enjoy the reading!



Contributors: Eric Salas (faculty) Bradley J. Borougerdi (faculty), Joseph Huber (student) Kallie Kosc (faculty)

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