Patrick Ignaut W211197397

Professor Dr. Lori Lehtola

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Hawn’s Mill Massacre

Murder in the night that goes ignored by the President of the United States and is endorsed by an extermination order by the mayor of Missouri at the time. A travesty on American soil that begs questioning, why this happened, and could it happen again? As for why I will discuss the threat that the Mormons posed in the minds of the Missourians. Whether or not this could happen again in today’s America is best answered by comparing similar events to the Hawn’s Mill Massacre.

The Missourians of Hawn Mill felt threatened by the Mormons that arrived, and in their minds encroached upon their territory, causing them to be moved to violence. Mormons had initially settled nearly a decade prior in the western parts of Missouri on the Jacksonian area, only to be forced into moving away by a mob in 1833. They moved into the neighboring areas and settled only long enough for their new neighbors to commit the same aggressive mob tactic of forcing the Mormons to move once again. Lastly in Clay County the Mormons of the area were forced to move this time to an unsettled area of Missouri. This shows repeatedly a pattern of aggressive action towards the Mormon communities by their neighbors as they enter a territory, which is the reason behind the main cause of violence.

Each region of Missouri saw the influx of Mormons as a threat to their society and demanded that they be relocated away from their territories. However, as this continued to occur in neighboring regions, the rate of newcomers to the unsettled area increased. This undoubtedly caused the average mob to push the Mormons out to increase in severity, as they would be exposed to more of the customs that irritated the Missourians. This would eventually result in the Mormon War, or more accurately, the violent expulsion of Mormons from Missouri by some violent Missourians.

What happened at Hawn’s Mill in some ways has in some ways already happened again since that calamity in the winter of 1838. The Hawn’s Mill Massacre has both state and federal government to blame for its occurrence, from either neglect or direct involvement. Events such as Waco, where government and bigoted intolerance of differing religious beliefs caused the 1993 catastrophe. History has already repeated itself in recent memory and, even with the advent of modernity, I believe that this occurring again is entirely possible in our lifetime.

I conclusion, the Hawn’s Mill Massacre was a terrible event caused by religious bigotry, intolerance of differing ways of life, and terrible people in seats of office. This setup will undoubtedly occur again, though its form may change as does our country. With this knowledge I think it’s better to ask, can anything be done to prevent it when it inevitably happens again?

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