

America as a Nation of Ideas II

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1 Problem Statement

A continuation of my post from last week.

If America is indeed a nation of ideas, in order to propagate in it's original form. As I discussed before, I think if the U.S. has any hope of continuing in it's ideological roots / path, a strong dose of civic, legal, political, and even (or especially) philosophy. There are obvious dangers in this, especially if this is government-directed.

2 Ideas

The two paths appear to be a strong education toward the ideological and philosophical foundations of America or the gradual reduction to merely a nation of history and culture as I see the other nations.

In the first case, I think the great difficulty is a few-fold: 1) who to do it 2) how to do it, and 3) what if they don't buy in. In the first case, the government can't particularly be trusted, not at the absolute federal level, but the general values ought to be fairly uniform and a clear reflection of the values and philosophy of the founders and founding of America. It really must be a groundswell-type work of individuals and low-level / local groups and governments, but united in purpose. Next, this case of how it is to be taught is mostly dependent on who teaches it. It must involve the central ideas and philosophies of the founding of the nation, especially in terms of how they are reflected in the documents and essential structure of the country's government. Third, there will still be many people who do not accept the philosophies of the U.S.'s founding, no matter how clearly presented. It's probably not realistic to divide the nation on the basis of ideology, although the ideas I think are central here are generally broadly liberal, enlightenment-esque ideas, not specific governance policies (though these certainly become inextricably intertwined at some level).

If the ideology and philosophy cease to become throughrunning strands of American history and politics, I think America will inevitably become a nation of mere history and peoples, unless the genuinely fragmented genetic and cultural heritage prevents this. I think this is especially likely given point 3 in the previous paragraph.

3 The Main Point

I think it's almost inevitable that America descends, at some point or another, whether long in the future or perhaps already. I'm somewhat disappointed by this conclusion (not completely certain of it), but it seems inevitable and not really bad, I guess. As a democracy, the policies, up to the national themes and philosophy, can change according to the population, which I've gone to lengths pointing out is likely to drift from the original philosophies of the founding.