

**Lecture
Three:
Building a
Nation:**



I- Cultural Regions of America

A- The New England region:

Includes Main, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusset, Rode Island ,nearly all the Connecticut, upstate new York and a narrow strip of northern Pennsylvania.

- In 1800 this area was occupied by new Englanders and now the majority are Roman Catholics, except in certain rural areas.
- They emphasis on education and the intellectual life has continued to develop.
- Politics continues to be seen in highly moralistic terms.
- Today all three East Coast regional cultures have a European system.

B- The New York Metropolitan region:

- It is restricted to New York City and its environs .
- It is a small area but it is larger in population than many other region.
- It has many different religions and ethnic groups such as Orthodox Jews, Puerto Ricans and Italians.

❖ The result of ethnic situation:

- It becomes in many ways more European and more varied.
- It is more exciting than other regions in the country.
- It is the centre of communication industry.

C- Pennsylvania region:

- Includes most of the state of Pennsylvania and neighboring portions of New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. It was founded as a Quaker colony in 1680.
- It was the centre of American learning and idealism rivaling New England
- Religion: the Pennsylvanian region was **Presbyterian** and **Quaker**.

D- The Southern Region:

- Begins in southern Delaware and Maryland.
- Its border moves west over Virginia and west Virginia crossing southern Ohio into Indiana and southern Illinois, it includes Missouri and Oklahoma.
- It is the **largest region geographically** in the US and it has $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total population of the country.
- Its dialects are more recognized and different than the other regional dialects .
- They produced the negro style ‘ **blues’ mountain or hillbilly** music which is now known as **country**.
- The south has been noted for its hospitality and friendliness.

E- The Midwest region:

- The Midwest is centered in Chicago.
- The region consists of 12 states in the north central United States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- Politics in the region is called moralistic and regarded as equally the concern of all.
- The educational standards and aspiration of the region has been high.

F- The Rocky Mountain region

- It is the least well defined cultural regions. It includes the true home of cowboy, the skier, the hiker and the climber.
- Its population density is the lowest in USA.
- The attitudes of the people have reflected its topography and climate.
- The attention of the area is focused on its mineral resources and their exploitation.

G- The Mormon region:

- **IT IS A REGION OF SOUTHEAST IDAHO AND UTAH.**
- **THE MORMON COMMUNITY WAS DRIVEN OUT OF SEVERAL AREAS BECAUSE OF ITS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES SO THEY MOVED TO THE DISTANT FRONTIER.**
- **THEY BUILT THE FAMOUS MORMON TEMPLE IN WHAT IS NOW SALT LAKE CITY AND ALSO CONSTRUCTED AN EXEMPLARY SOCIETY**
- **IT IS NOTABLE FOR VERY HIGH EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH STANDARDS.**
- **THE EMPHASIS ON FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HAS LED TO A HIGH BIRTH RATE.**

H- The Interior Southern Region



- Confined to the state of Arizona and New Mexico.
- Much of the region was in the hand of Indian groups.
- The climate is harsh but less than the north.
- It is a new frontier but the oldest cultures in America (Indian and Spanish) give the region a feeling different from the rest of the West with its more newness.

I- The Pacific Southwest Region



- It is primarily California because for many people the west is California.
- The desirable climate of California's coastal areas has continued to pull in people from the entire of the country.
- California was the first major state to make higher education easily available to all its citizens.
- California agriculture feeds the country.
- The region has become a favourite tourist area for all Americans.

J- The Alaska region



- The culture of Alaska is a mixture of the forty- eight states of the continental United States.
- Alaska's economy is dominated by the oil, natural gas, and fishing industries, resources which it has in abundance.
Tourism is also a significant part of the economy.
- Because of its climate and the high cost of living it seems unlikely to soon become a stable cultural area.

K- The Hawaiian Region

- Is particularly a desirable place for most Americans.
- Hawaii is the only U.S. state not located in the Americas and the only state with an Asian plurality.
- The largest single ethnic group in Hawaii is of Japanese background.
- The economy of the area is now dominated by tourism.
- The Hawaiians traditionally have been characterised as a relaxed people.

II- A Consonance of Towns

The Virginia Plantation and Decentralization

- Virginia company granted settlement in the eastern seaboard investors in London were instructed to found handsome towns and also Gold gems.
- After the failure of James town due to bad conditions, the Virginia colonists began the cultivation of Tobacco as the salvation of the colony.
- The early society of Virginia was seen a primitive, lawless one , because of the lack of fixed settlement

- The Virginia planters improvised a decentralized society held together by slender strands of interdependence.
 - Law was dispensed at country court houses.
The governmental, religious, and trading centres of Virginia did not grow into towns.
 - The plantation economy retarded the early development in the south

New England and the concept of community

- In contrast, the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the north, the puritans and the pilgrims achieved more than one hundred towns by 1717 due to the usual determinants of geography, and economics , and also the different backgrounds of the colonists. “ a city upon a hill”
- congregations were self governing, linked to the Calvinistic theology. They discussed the church affairs and meeting for secular ones such as: dividing lands, building roads ...etc .

It was the political assembly open to all free man, church elders, and often the most prosperous citizens, unlike in Virginia by the house of Burgesses.

- The process of town founding was institutionalized in colony law. They should draw up a covenant, apply for a land grant and settle on it.

The Ideal new England village was a peaceable, orderly place, however, there were conflict of neighbours tension, theological dispute, and the land contention for the third generation which divided the congregations, and accumulated pressures which led to the need of more lands..

Convergence in the West

- After the revolutionary war, the Old North West territory opened up the individualistic southerners, and the orderly New Englanders converged, added to the inhabitants of the middle Atlantic states .
- The young towns competed for “Country seat of government ” to become trading centres of the area.
- Many artisans, traders were attracted to service the rural populations, the relationship between towns and countryside was symbiotic

Speculation as the basis of settlement

- As settlements marched westward, land was the primary basis of wealth bought up by a public auction, the speculator was the founder of towns.

Tensions between towns and country

- Tensions between towns and country improved somewhat in 1900s as farmers grew more prosperous, because of social food chain, the big fish swallows the little fish, in turn to be swallowed by a bigger one.
- America never developed a peasant class like Europe's
- The rural American set his sight on the town; and the small town American set his on the city

Mobility and the American Dream



- There was impulse to seek the better place, for the first time since the founding of the republic, the rural areas registered greater population gains than the cities.
- Some of them were half searching for the Utopian community, while others wanted to live free.
- The traditional social distance between town and country has closed
- “A nation that is neither rural nor urban, but ‘Rurban’.”
- By the mid 1980’s the rural renaissance had slowed, middle western small towns die off as farmers leave the land, or as industry passes them by.

III- Growth of Urban America

1- Urbanization:

The shift from the rural to the large urban cities,

- The U.S urbanization process went through different phases,

- **2- Frontier urbanization:**

- Started with the European colonization in 1500s to the establishment of James town in 1607,
- The first two centuries of the nations history were dominated by this process of frontier urbanization, it ended with the American independence 1776,

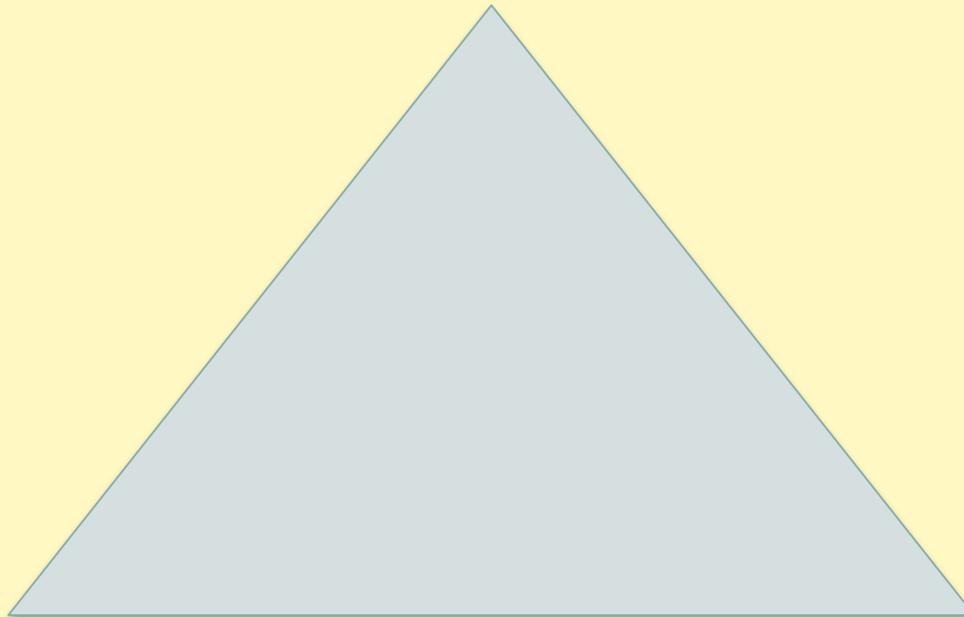
3- Merchantile epoch: period from 1800 through the civil war,

- Cities were concentrated along the eastern sea board,
- Dominated by merchants
- Characterized by the construction of canals, rivers and lake transportation stretched from the Atlantic to the Mississippi river,

4- The post civil war era:

The period was characterized by two important elements that fueled American urbanization

urbanization



immigration

industrialization

- Immigrants fueled industrial growth
- Elected politicians
- Made their traditions as part of the American culture
- Build railroads and worked in coal mines, steel and factories,

5- Industrial revolution:

- Trains became the dominant transportation
- Spread of skyscrapers
- Development of elevated steam, cable car, underground trains...etc
- Expansion of the city boundaries,
- Cities became the center of industry