

Chapter 1 : professional essay on The Americans by Daniel J. Boorstin

The papers of Daniel J. Boorstin, author, historian, and Librarian of Congress, were deposited by Boorstin in the Library of Congress between and In his wife, Ruth Frankel Boorstin, donated the collection to the Library.

We expect more of them and we are given more of them. They flood our consciousness. Their multiplication has gone on in the United States at a faster rate than elsewhere. Even the rate of increase is increasing every day. This is true of the world of education, of consumption, and of personal relations. It is especially true of the world of public affairs which I describe in this chapter. For our present purposes it is enough to recall a few of the more revolutionary recent developments. The great modern increase in the supply and the demand for news began in the early nineteenth century. Until then newspapers tended to fill out their columns with lackadaisical secondhand accounts or stale reprints of items first published elsewhere at home and abroad. The laws of plagiarism and of copyright were undeveloped. Most newspapers were little more than excuses for espousing a political position, for listing the arrival and departure of ships, for familiar essays and useful advice, or for commercial or legal announcements. Two newspapermen, William M. When the Associated Press was founded in , news began to be a salable commodity. Then appeared the rotary press, which could print on a continuous sheet and on both sides of the paper at the same time. The competitive daring of giants like James Gordon Bennett, Joseph Pulitzer, and William Randolph Hearst intensified the race for news and widened newspaper circulation. The increased speed of printing was itself revolutionary. Still more revolutionary were the new techniques for making direct images of nature. Photography was destined soon to give printed matter itself a secondary role. By a giant leap Americans crossed the gulf from the daguerreotype to color television in less than a century. Verisimilitude took on a new meaning. Not only was it now possible to give the actual voice and gestures of Franklin Delano Roosevelt unprecedented reality and intimacy for a whole nation. Vivid image came to overshadow pale reality. The Grand Canyon itself became a disappointing reproduction of the Kodachrome original. The new power to report and portray what had happened was a new temptation leading newsmen to make probable images or to prepare reports in advance of what was expected to happen. As so often, men came to mistake their power for their necessities. Readers and viewers would soon prefer the vividness of the account, the "candidness" of the photograph, to the spontaneity of what was recounted. The news gap soon became so narrow that in order to have additional "news" for each new edition or each new broadcast it was necessary to plan in advance the stages by which any available news would be unveiled. After the weekly and the daily came the "extras" and the numerous regular editions. The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin soon had seven editions a day. No rest for the newsman. With more space to fill, he had to fill it ever more quickly. In order to justify the numerous editions, it was increasingly necessary that the news constantly change or at least seem to change. News every hour on the hour, and sometimes on the half hour. Programs interrupted any time for special bulletins. How to avoid deadly repetition, the appearance that nothing was happening, that news gatherers were asleep, or that competitors were more alert? As the costs of printing and then of broadcasting increased, it became financially necessary to keep the presses always at work and the TV screen always busy. News gathering turned into news making. The "interview" was a novel way of making news which had come in with the Graphic Revolution. Ellen Jewett, inmate of a house of prostitution, had been found murdered by an ax. Robinson, a young man about town, was accused of the crime. Bennett seized the occasion to pyramid sensational stories and so to build circulation for his Herald; before long he was having difficulty turning out enough copies daily to satisfy the demand. He exploited the story in every possible way, one of which was to plan and report an actual interview with Rosina Townsend, the madam who kept the house and whom he visited on her own premises. The common use of the word "interview" in this modern American sense first came in about this time. Very early the institution acquired a reputation for being contrived. After the American example it was used in England and France, but in both those countries it made much slower headway. It was in that Macaulay called the gallery where reporters sat in Parliament a "fourth estate of the realm. They have long since made themselves the tribunes of the people. Their supposed detachment and lack of partisanship, their closeness to the sources of information, their

articulateness, and their constant and direct access to the whole citizenry have made them also the counselors of the people. A President may find it inconvenient to meet a group of dissident Senators or Congressmen; he seldom dares refuse the press. That refusal itself becomes news. It is only very recently, and as a result of increasing pressures by newsmen, that the phrase "No comment" has become a way of saying something important. Even before Washington had about 1, correspondents and about 3, government information officials prepared to serve them. Even in the new format it is still the newsmen who put the questions. They are still tribunes of the people. The monarchy is only the most prominent. The disproportion between what an informed citizen needs to know and what he can know is ever greater. The British and French counterparts, surprisingly enough, give a faithful report of what is said on the floor of their deliberative bodies. But ever since the establishment of the Congressional Record under its present title in , our only ostensibly complete report of what goes on in Congress has had no more than the faintest resemblance to what is actually said there. Despite occasional feeble protests, our Record has remained a gargantuan miscellany in which actual proceedings are buried beneath undelivered speeches, and mountains of the unread and the unreadable. And they are only a slightly less inaccurate record of spontaneous happenings. Through this meaning of the word is now in common use in the news gathering professions; it is so recent that it has not yet made its way into our dictionaries. The National Press Club in its Washington clubrooms has a large rack which is filled daily with the latest releases, so the reporter does not even have to visit the offices which give them out. In there were about twice as many government press agents engaged in preparing news releases as there were newsmen gathering them in. When the President abandoned the advance text, later editions of the Chicago Sun-Times headlined: Apparently the most newsworthy fact was that the President had not stuck to his prepared text. The authentic news record of what happens or is said comes increasingly to seem to be what is given out in advance. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whom Heywood Broun called "the best newspaperman who has ever been President of the United States," was the first modern master. While newspaper owners opposed him in editorials which few read, F. Knowing that newspapermen lived on news, he helped them manufacture it. Take, for example, these comments which President Roosevelt made at a press conference during his visit to a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Florida on February 18, , when war tensions were mounting: In other words, it is a thing that I cannot put as direct stuff, but it is background. When asked when he was returning [to Washington], the President intimated that it was impossible to give any date; because, while he hoped to be away until the third or fourth of March, information that continues to be received with respect to the international situation continues to be disturbing, therefore, it may be necessary for the President to return [to the capital] before the third or fourth of March. It is understood that this information relates to the possible renewal of demands by certain countries, these demands being pushed, not through normal diplomatic channels but, rather, through the more recent type of relations; in other words, the use of fear of aggression. Yet, paradoxically, it was under his administrations that statements by the President attained a new subtlety and a new calculatedness. On his production team, in addition to newspapermen, there were poets, playwrights, and a regular corps of speechwriters. Far from detracting from his effectiveness, this collaborative system for producing the impression of personal frankness and spontaneity provided an additional subject of newsworthy interest. How much had the President revised the draft given him by his speech-writing team? Citizens became nearly as much interested in how a particular speech was put together as in what it said. Of course President Roosevelt made many great decisions and lived in times which he only helped make stirring. Such was that of the late Joseph R. McCarthy, Senator from Wisconsin from to His career might have been impossible without the elaborate, perpetually grinding machinery of "information" which I have already described. And he was a natural genius at creating reportable happenings that had an interestingly ambiguous relation to underlying reality. He knew how to get into the news even on those rare occasions when invention failed him and he had no facts to give out. This would gain him a headline in the afternoon papers: They were somehow reluctantly grateful to him for turning out their product. They stood astonished that he could make so much news from such meager raw material. Many hated him; all helped him. They were victims of what one of them called their "indiscriminate objectivity. Even while they attacked him on the editorial page inside, they were building him up in front-page headlines. Newspapermen were his most

potent allies, for they were his co-manufacturers of pseudo-events. They were caught in their own web. Honest newsmen and the unscrupulous Senator McCarthy were in separate branches of the same business. Hard news is supposed to be the solid report of significant matters: Soft news reports popular interests, curiosities, and diversions: But the rising tide of pseudo-events washes away the distinction. Here is one example. On June 21, , President Eisenhower was in Honolulu, en route to the Far East for a trip to meet the heads of government in Korea, the Philippines, and elsewhere. A seven-column headline in the Chicago Daily News brought readers the following information:

Chapter 2 : Daniel J. Boorstin - WikiVisually

Correspondence, memoranda, minutes of meetings, reports, calendars and schedules, speeches and writings, background and research material, family and estate papers, financial and legal documents, interviews, notes, course outlines and examinations, passports and travel documents, invitations.

Biography[edit] Boorstin was born in , in Atlanta , Georgia, into a Jewish family. His father, Samuel, was a lawyer who participated in the defense of Leo Frank , a Jewish factory superintendent who was accused of the rape and murder of a teenage girl. He was hired as an assistant professor at Swarthmore College in , where he stayed for two years. In , he became a professor at the University of Chicago for 25 years and was the Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at the University of Cambridge in . She quickly became his partner and editor for his first book, *The Mysterious Science of the Law*, published in the same year. *The Democratic Experience* , the final book in the first trilogy, received the Pulitzer Prize in history. *A Guide to Pseudo-events in America* is an early description of aspects of American life that were later termed hyperreality and postmodernity. In *The Image*, Boorstin describes shifts in American culture "mainly due to advertising" where the reproduction or simulation of an event becomes more important or "real" than the event itself. He goes on to coin the term pseudo-event , which describes events or activities that serve little to no purpose other than to be reproduced through advertisements or other forms of publicity. This book also describes what many today call "fake news". The idea of pseudo-events anticipates later work by Jean Baudrillard and Guy Debord. We, the librarians of the world, are servants of an indivisible world! Books and ideas make a boundless world. The Senate confirmed the nomination without debate. He died of pneumonia February 28, , in Washington D. Boorstin believed that the main points of American history were made by what the people agreed upon, rather than what they fought over. He emphasized continuities in history, rather than radical changes. He distrusted doctrinaire thinking; his writings minimized the role of pure thinkers and emphasized the role of problem solvers. He was conservative in politics and his approach to culture. Revolted by what he saw as vulgarities in American life and advertising, he believed that capitalism had the power to cause change to occur. He observed the transformative power of seemingly mundane cultural advances as air conditioning, telephones, catalog shopping, canned food and typewriters. Cole, in the obituary of Boorstin he wrote for the *American Antiquarian*, credited Boorstin with bringing new intellectual energy to the Library of Congress LOC , opening the institution to, "the public, to scholars, and to new constituencies. In , Boorstin appeared before Congress to oppose legislation that would have made drastic cuts in the LOC budget. His pleas resulted in substantially restoring the proposed cuts. It also resulted in his being called, "Honors[edit] His book, *The Americans: The Colonial Experience* won the Bancroft Prize for best book in history. *The National Experience* He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for writing *The Americans: The Democratic Experience*

Chapter 3 : Daniel J. Boorstin papers | Open Library

Daniel Joseph Boorstin (October 1, - February 28,) was an American historian at the University of Chicago who wrote on many topics in American and world history.

Prior to this he served eight months as the 40th Vice President of the United States, before his appointment to the vice presidency, Ford served 25 years as U. Representative from Michigans 5th congressional district, the nine of them as the House Minority Leader. Domestically, Ford presided over the worst economy in the four decades since the Great Depression, with growing inflation, one of his most controversial acts was to grant a presidential pardon to President Richard Nixon for his role in the Watergate scandal. During Fords presidency, foreign policy was characterized in procedural terms by the increased role Congress began to play, in the Republican presidential primary campaign of , Ford defeated former California Governor Ronald Reagan for the Republican nomination. Arthur not to be elected in his own right, following his years as President, Ford remained active in the Republican Party. After experiencing health problems, he died at home on December 26., Ford lived longer than any other U. Dorothy and King divorced in December , she gained custody of her son. Fords paternal grandfather Charles Henry King paid child support until shortly before his death in , Ford later said his biological father had a history of hitting his mother. Ford later told confidantes that his father had first hit his mother on their honeymoon for smiling at another man. The future president was never adopted, and did not legally change his name until December 3, Ford also had three half-siblings from the marriage of Leslie King, Sr. He was a farmer who served two terms as a Georgia State Senator from to , and one as the Governor of Georgia from to He was elected President in , defeating incumbent President Gerald Ford in a close election. On his second day in office, Carter pardoned all evaders of the Vietnam War drafts, during Carters term as President, two new cabinet-level departments, the Department of Energy and the Department of Education, were established. He established an energy policy that included conservation, price control. On the economic front he confronted persistent stagflation, a combination of inflation, high unemployment. The end of his tenure was marked by the " Iran hostage crisis, the energy crisis, the Three Mile Island nuclear accident. His presidency has drawn medium-low responses from historians, with many considering him to have accomplished more with his post-presidency work and he set up the Carter Center in as his base for advancing human rights. He has also traveled extensively to conduct negotiations, observe elections. Additionally, Carter is a key figure in the Habitat for Humanity project, since surpassing Herbert Hoover in September , he has been the longest-retired president in American history. He is also the first president to mark the 40th anniversary of his election and inauguration, in reference to current political views, he has criticized some of Israels actions and policies in regards to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has advocated for a two-state solution. James Earl Carter, Jr. Numerous generations of Carters lived as farmers in Georgia. Carter is also a descendant of Thomas Cornell, an ancestor of Cornell Universitys founder and of Richard Nixon, Plains was a boomtown of people at the time of Carters birth. His father, James Earl Carter, Sr. Before his presidency, he was the 33rd Governor of California, from to , after a career as a Hollywood actor and union leader. Raised in a family in small towns of northern Illinois, Reagan graduated from Eureka College in After moving to Hollywood in , he became an actor, Reagan was twice elected President of the Screen Actors Guild, the labor union for actors, where he worked to root out Communist influence. In the s, he moved into television and was a speaker at General Electric factories. Having been a lifelong Democrat, his views changed and he became a conservative and in switched to the Republican Party. In , Reagans speech, A Time for Choosing, in support of Barry Goldwaters foundering presidential campaign, Building a network of supporters, he was elected Governor of California in Entering the presidency in , Reagan implemented sweeping new political, in his first term he survived an assassination attempt, spurred the War on Drugs, and fought public sector labor. During his re-election bid, Reagan campaigned on the notion that it was Morning in America, foreign affairs dominated his second term, including ending of the Cold War, the bombing of Libya, and the Iran-Contra affair. Publicly describing the Soviet Union as an empire, and during his famous speech at the Brandenburg Gate. Jack, a salesman and storyteller, was the grandson of Irish Catholic immigrants from

County Tipperary, Reagan had one older brother, John Neil Reagan, who became an advertising executive. As a boy, Reagans father nicknamed his son Dutch, due to his fat little Dutchman-like appearance and Dutchboy haircut, Reagans family briefly lived in several towns and cities in Illinois, including Monmouth, Galesburg, and Chicago. In , they returned to Tampico and lived above the H. C. Pitney Variety Store until finally settling in Dixon. After his election as president, residing in the upstairs White House private quarters, for the time, Reagan was unusual in his opposition to racial discrimination, and recalled a time in Dixon when the local inn would not allow black people to stay there. Reagan brought them back to his house, where his mother invited them to stay the night and have breakfast the next morning, after the closure of the Pitney Store in late and the familys move to Dixon, the midwestern small universe had a lasting impression on Reagan. Reagan attended Dixon High School, where he developed interests in acting, sports and his first job was as a lifeguard at the Rock River in Lowell Park in Over a six-year period, Reagan reportedly performed 77 rescues as a lifeguard and he attended Eureka College, a Disciples-oriented liberal arts school, where he became a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, a cheerleader, and studied economics and sociology. While involved, the Miller Center of Public Affairs described him as an indifferent student and he majored in economics and sociology, and graduated with a C grade 4. Atlanta â€” Atlanta is the capital of and the most populous city in the U. Atlanta is the cultural and economic center of the Atlanta metropolitan area, home to 5., people, Atlanta is the county seat of Fulton County, and a small portion of the city extends eastward into DeKalb County. In , Atlanta was founded at the intersection of two lines, and the city rose from the ashes of the American Civil War to become a national center of commerce. Atlantas economy is considered diverse, with dominant sectors that include logistics, professional and business services, media operations, Atlanta has topographic features that include rolling hills and dense tree coverage. Revitalization of Atlantas neighborhoods, initially spurred by the Olympics in Atlanta, has intensified in the 21st century, altering the demographics, politics. Prior to the arrival of European settlers in north Georgia, Creek Indians inhabited the area, standing Peachtree, a Creek village located where Peachtree Creek flows into the Chattahoochee River, was the closest Indian settlement to what is now Atlanta. As part of the removal of Native Americans from northern Georgia from to , the Creek ceded the area in In , the Georgia General Assembly voted to build the Western, the initial route was to run southward from Chattanooga to a terminus east of the Chattahoochee River, which would then be linked to Savannah. After engineers surveyed various possible locations for the terminus, the zero milepost was driven into the ground in what is now Five Points. A year later, the area around the milepost had developed into a settlement, first known as Terminus, and later as Thrasherville after a merchant who built homes. By , the town had six buildings and 30 residents and was renamed Marthasville to honor the Governors daughter, later, J. The residents approved, and the town was incorporated as Atlanta on December 29., by , Atlantas population had grown to 9, During the American Civil War, the nexus of multiple railroads in Atlanta made the city a hub for the distribution of military supplies, in , the Union Army moved southward following the capture of Chattanooga and began its invasion of north Georgia. On the next day, Mayor James Calhoun surrendered Atlanta to the Union Army, on November 11., Sherman prepared for the Union Armys March to the Sea by ordering Atlanta to be burned to the ground, sparing only the citys churches and hospitals. After the Civil War ended in , Atlanta was gradually rebuilt, due to the citys superior rail transportation network, the state capital was moved from Milledgeville to Atlanta in In the Census, Atlanta surpassed Savannah as Georgias largest city, by , the founding of the Georgia School of Technology and the citys black colleges had established Atlanta as a center for higher education. In , Atlanta hosted the Cotton States and International Exposition, during the first decades of the 20th century, Atlanta experienced a period of unprecedented growth. In three decades time, Atlantas population tripled as the city expanded to include nearby streetcar suburbs 5. Among the colleges alumni are three former ministers, five Nobel laureates, and numerous literary and philosophical figures, including Adam Smith, Gerard Manley Hopkins. Under a statute of , New Inn Hall was merged into Balliol College in , Balliol acquired New Inn Halls admissions and other records for â€” as well as the library of New Inn Hall, which largely contained 18th-century law books. Along with many of the ancient colleges, Balliol has evolved its own traditions and customs over the centuries, the patron saint of the College is Saint Catherine of Alexandria. On her feast day, a dinner is held for all final year students within

Balliol. This festival was established by Another important feast is the Snell Dinner and this dinner is held in memory of John Snell, whose benefaction established exhibitions for students from the University of Glasgow to study at Balliol one of whom was Adam Smith. The feast is attended by fellows of Balliol College, the current Snell Exhibitioners, by far the most eccentric event is The Neotists carol-singing event organised by the Colleges Arnold and Brackenbury Society. This event happens on the last Friday of Michaelmas term each year, on this occasion, Balliol students congregate in the college hall to enjoy mulled wine and the singing of carols. The evening historically ended with a rendition of The Gordouli on Broad Street, outside the gates of Trinity College, verses of this form are now known as Balliol rhymes. The best known of these rhymes is the one on Benjamin Jowett and this has been widely quoted and reprinted in virtually every book about Jowett and about Balliol ever since. This and 18 others are attributed to Henry Charles Beeching, the other quatrains are much less well known. For many years, there has been a traditional and fierce rivalry shown between the students of Balliol and those of its neighbour to the east, Trinity College. It has manifested itself on the field and the river, in the form of songs sung over the dividing walls. In college folklore, the rivalry back to the late 17th century. In fact, in its form, the rivalry appears to date from the late s 6. It holds top-ten positions in national and international rankings and measures. The university currently enrolls approximately 5, students in the College, Chicagos physics department helped develop the worlds first man-made, self-sustaining nuclear reaction beneath the viewing stands of universitys Stag Field. The university is home to the University of Chicago Press. With an estimated date of , the Barack Obama Presidential Center will be housed at the university. Both Harper and future president Robert Maynard Hutchins advocated for Chicagos curriculum to be based upon theoretical and perennial issues rather than on applied sciences, the University of Chicago has many prominent alumni. Rockefeller on land donated by Marshall Field, while the Rockefeller donation provided money for academic operations and long-term endowment, it was stipulated that such money could not be used for buildings. Organized as an independent institution legally, it replaced the first Baptist university of the same name, William Rainey Harper became the modern universitys first president on July 1,, and the university opened for classes on October 1, The business school was founded thereafter in , and the law school was founded in , Harper died in , and was replaced by a succession of three presidents whose tenures lasted until During this period, the Oriental Institute was founded to support, in , the university affiliated with Shimer College in Mount Carroll, Illinois. The agreement provided that either party could terminate the affiliation on proper notice, several University of Chicago professors disliked the program, as it involved uncompensated additional labor on their part, and they believed it cheapened the academic reputation of the university. The program passed into history by , in , the universitys fifth president, Robert Maynard Hutchins, took office, the university underwent many changes during his year tenure. In , Hutchins proposed a plan to merge the University of Chicago. During his term, the University of Chicago Hospitals finished construction, also, the Committee on Social Thought, an institution distinctive of the university, was created. Money that had been raised during the s and financial backing from the Rockefeller Foundation helped the school to survive through the Great Depression, during World War II, the university made important contributions to the Manhattan Project. The university was the site of the first isolation of plutonium and of the creation of the first artificial, in the early s, student applications declined as a result of increasing crime and poverty in the Hyde Park neighborhood 7. Library of Congress â€” The Library of Congress is the research library that officially serves the United States Congress and is the de facto national library of the United States. It is the oldest federal cultural institution in the United States, the Library is housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill in Washington, D. The Library of Congress claims to be the largest library in the world and its collections are universal, not limited by subject, format, or national boundary, and include research materials from all parts of the world and in more than languages. Two-thirds of the books it acquires each year are in other than English. The Library of Congress moved to Washington in , after sitting for years in the temporary national capitals of New York. Beckley, who became the first Librarian of Congress, was two dollars per day and was required to also serve as the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The small Congressional Library was housed in the United States Capitol for most of the 19th century until the early s, most of the original collection had been destroyed by the British in , during the War of To restore its collection in , the bought

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Chapter 4 : Daniel J. Boorstin | Revolvly

Daniel J. Boorstin was born on October 1, 1914, in Atlanta, Georgia, but grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His writings later reflected some of the spirit of his childhood home, a booming oil city full of optimism and entrepreneurial possibilities.

October 1, Death Date: Atlanta, Georgia, United States Nationality: Boorstin born was a scholar with broad interests, best known as an advocate of a conservative, "consensus" interpretation of American history. He became Librarian of Congress in 1961. His writings later reflected some of the spirit of his childhood home, a booming oil city full of optimism and entrepreneurial possibilities. After graduating from high school at age 15, he entered Harvard University where he won the Bowdoin Prize for his senior honors essay in 1932. Boorstin returned to the United States in 1933 and spent a year at Yale Law School, which subsequently awarded him a Doctor of Juridical Science degree. From 1934 to 1936 he taught legal history, American history, and literature courses at Harvard and Radcliffe. Meanwhile, like many American idealists and intellectuals in the 1930s, he became interested in Marxism. In 1935 he joined the Communist Party, but he left it the following year because of disillusionment with events in Europe, notably the signing of the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939. Years later, Boorstin angered many radicals and liberals by testifying before the House Un-American Activities Committee and agreeing to provide the committee with the names of his former Party comrades. Boorstin was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1937, and for a few months he practiced law as an attorney for a federal agency, the Lend-Lease Administration. Later in 1937 he resigned his government post to accept a teaching position at Swarthmore College. In 1938 he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, where he remained for the next 25 years. In a second book, *The Lost World of Thomas Jefferson*, Boorstin argued that Jefferson was not, as most Jeffersonian scholars claimed, a speculative philosopher, but a man who derived insights from his experience with concrete situations. In this slim volume Boorstin asserted that the American experience was in many respects exceptional. The natural abundance of the land gave Americans exceptional opportunities and encouraged a faith in upward mobility. American realities, if judged by the standard of known historical precedents, were so close to ideal conditions that utopian ideological schemes would not appeal to Americans. The "is" of American life would be taken as the "ought. Even the Civil War had not, according to Boorstin, broken these broad continuities or produced fundamental changes in American institutions. Boorstin, therefore, was soon recognized as one of the leading proponents of a conservative, "consensus" interpretation of American life. Critics were quick to challenge his perspective, asserting that he ignored instances of deep-seated economic and ethnic conflict while giving inadequate attention to the many Americans whose experience did not fit neatly with his nationalist claims for the United States as a land of opportunity. Some reviewers complained that the trilogy was seriously deficient because Boorstin said little about political and military history. However, the virtual absence of these topics was consistent with his view that the truly important themes in the American past were the social history of pioneering, invention, entrepreneurship, and the like. In volume one, *The Americans: In his second volume, The Americans: The National Experience*, which covered the period from the Revolution to the Civil War, Boorstin described the United States as a nation of practical folk who, in spreading westward across the continent, developed a faith in republicanism and individualism because the virtues of those ideas were daily demonstrated in their lives. Finally, in *The Americans: It was still a story with many heroes, go-getter businessmen such as Gustavus Swift, and trend-setting inventors such as Thomas A. Nevertheless, the book closed on a somber note as Boorstin decried some of the trends he observed in 20th-century American life, especially what seemed to him the baneful influence of consumer culture and the mass media. In 1954 he had published *The Image: Similarly, Boorstin had been deeply troubled by the outburst of radical protest that swept university campuses in the late 1960s. In his book The Decline of Radicalism: Reflections on America Today he had harsh words for the New Left radicals, asserting that they were advocating dissent, which tended to divide and destroy, rather than practicing disagreement, which allowed for discussion and, eventually, for agreement through compromise. In 1970 he was appointed Librarian of Congress by President Gerald Ford and served in that position until 1976. In spite of his heavy administrative duties, he continued to write. Academic Acclaim Throughout his life, Boorstin received**

much acclaim for his historical scholarship. Boorstin was the beneficiary of more than 50 honorary degrees and was decorated by the governments of France, Belgium, Portugal, and Japan. At the Sorbonne, in Paris, he was the first incumbent chair of American History. Although his books proved exceptionally popular, Boorstin often stated that he wrote for the pleasure of writing rather than for compensation. As he entered his eighties, he continued to write and travel the lecture circuit. Essays of the Unexpected, and in , The Daniel J. Boorstin Reader, which included selections from most of his books. He followed these with The Seekers: In all Boorstin authored or edited more than 26 works, which have since been translated into more than 25 languages. Further Reading Three short sources on Daniel J. Boorstin," in John Wakeman, ed. Boorstin," in Dictionary of Literary Biography: Twentieth Century American Historians A brief biography of Boorstin can be found on the Internet at <http://www.paper-research.com> Want to make your first order? Paper-Research offers pre-written essays, term papers, book reports, and research papers on a great variety of topics that will diversify your writing and help improve your grade.

Chapter 5 : Dr Daniel J. Boorstin - College Paper

[Daniel J Boorstin] -- Correspondence, memoranda, minutes of meetings, reports, calendars and schedules, speeches and writings, background and research material, family and estate papers, financial and legal documents.

He was appointed the twelfth Librarian of the United States Congress in 1939 and served until 1964. He was instrumental in the creation of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. Repudiating his youthful membership in the Communist Party while a Harvard undergraduate in 1939, Boorstin became a political conservative and a prominent exponent of consensus history. He argued in *The Genius of American Politics* that ideology, propaganda, and political theory are foreign to America. His writings were often linked with such historians as Richard Hofstadter, Louis Hartz and Clinton Rossiter as a proponent of the "consensus school", which emphasized the unity of the American people and downplayed class and social conflict. Boorstin especially praised inventors and entrepreneurs as central to the American success story. His father, Samuel, was a lawyer who participated in the defense of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory superintendent who was accused of the rape and murder of a teenage girl. He was hired as an assistant professor at Swarthmore College in 1937, where he stayed for two years. In 1941, he became a professor at the University of Chicago for 25 years and was the Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at the University of Cambridge in 1961. She quickly became his partner and editor for his first book, *The Mysterious Science of the Law*, published in the same year. *The Democratic Experience*, the final book in the first trilogy, received the Pulitzer Prize in history. *A Guide to Pseudo-events in America* is an early description of aspects of American life that were later termed hyperreality and postmodernity. In *The Image*, Boorstin describes shifts in American culture "mainly due to advertising" where the reproduction or simulation of an event becomes more important or "real" than the event itself. He goes on to coin the term pseudo-event, which describes events or activities that serve little to no purpose other than to be reproduced through advertisements or other forms of publicity. This book also describes what many today call "fake news". The idea of pseudo-events anticipates later work by Jean Baudrillard and Guy Debord. We, the librarians of the world, are servants of an indivisible world! Books and ideas make a boundless world. The Senate confirmed the nomination without debate. He died of pneumonia February 28, 1992, in Washington D. Boorstin believed that the main points of American history were made by what the people agreed upon, rather than what they fought over. He emphasized continuities in history, rather than radical changes. He distrusted doctrinaire thinking; his writings minimized the role of pure thinkers and emphasized the role of problem solvers. He was conservative in politics and his approach to culture. Revolted by what he saw as vulgarities in American life and advertising, he believed that capitalism had the power to cause change to occur. He observed the transformative power of seemingly mundane cultural advances as air conditioning, telephones, catalog shopping, canned food and typewriters. Cole, in the obituary of Boorstin he wrote for the *American Antiquarian*, credited Boorstin with bringing new intellectual energy to the Library of Congress LOC, opening the institution to, "the public, to scholars, and to new constituencies. In 1961, Boorstin appeared before Congress to oppose legislation that would have made drastic cuts in the LOC budget. His pleas resulted in substantially restoring the proposed cuts. It also resulted in his being called, "Honorary Citizen". His book, *The Americans: The Colonial Experience* won the Bancroft Prize for best book in history. *The National Experience* He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for writing *The Americans: The Democratic Experience* Introduction *The Americans*: Kelley and Ruth Frankel

Chapter 6 : Works by Daniel J. Boorstin - PhilPapers

Daniel J. Boorstin - - University of Chicago Press. Referred to as the "bible of American lawyers," Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England shaped the principles of law in both England and America when its first volume appeared in

October 1, Death Date: Atlanta, Georgia, United States Nationality: Boorstin born was a scholar with broad interests, best known as an advocate of a conservative, "consensus" interpretation of American history. He became Librarian of Congress in His writings later reflected some of the spirit of his childhood home, a booming oil city full of optimism and entrepreneurial possibilities. After graduating from high school at age 15, he entered Harvard University where he won the Bowdoin Prize for his senior honors essay in Boorstin returned to the United States in and spent a year at Yale Law School, which subsequently awarded him a Doctor of Juridical Science degree. From to he taught legal history, American history, and literature courses at Harvard and Radcliffe. Meanwhile, like many American idealists and intellectuals in the s, he became interested in Marxism. In he joined the Communist Party, but he left it the following year because of disillusionment with events in Europe, notably the signing of the Nazi-Soviet pact of Years later, Boorstin angered many radicals and liberals by testifying before the House Un-American Activities Committee and agreeing to provide the committee with the names of his former Party comrades. Boorstin was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in , and for a few months he practiced law as an attorney for a federal agency, the Lend-Lease Administration. Later in he resigned his government post to accept a teaching position at Swarthmore College. In he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, where he remained for the next 25 years. In a second book, *The Lost World of Thomas Jefferson* , Boorstin argued that Jefferson was not, as most Jeffersonian scholars claimed, a speculative philosopher, but a man who derived insights from his experience with concrete situations. In this slim volume Boorstin asserted that the American experience was in many respects exceptional. The natural abundance of the land gave Americans exceptional opportunities and encouraged a faith in upward mobility. American realities, if judged by the standard of known historical precedents, were so close to ideal conditions that utopian ideological schemes would not appeal to Americans. The "is" of American life would be taken as the "ought. Even the Civil War had not, according to Boorstin, broken these broad continuities or produced fundamental changes in American institutions. Boorstin, therefore, was soon recognized as one of the leading proponents of a conservative, "consensus" interpretation of American life. Critics were quick to challenge his perspective, asserting that he ignored instances of deep-seated economic and ethnic conflict while giving inadequate attention to the many Americans whose experience did not fit neatly with his nationalist claims for the United States as a land of opportunity. Some reviewers complained that the trilogy was seriously deficient because Boorstin said little about political and military history. However, the virtual absence of these topics was consistent with his view that the truly important themes in the American past were the social history of pioneering, invention, entrepreneurship, and the like. In volume one, *The Americans*: In his second volume, *The Americans: The National Experience* , which covered the period from the Revolution to the Civil War, Boorstin described the United States as a nation of practical folk who, in spreading westward across the continent, developed a faith in republicanism and individualism because the virtues of those ideas were daily demonstrated in their lives. Finally, in *The Americans*: It was still a story with many heroes, go-getter businessmen such as Gustavus Swift, and trend-setting inventors such as Thomas A. Nevertheless, the book closed on a somber note as Boorstin decried some of the trends he observed in 20th-century American life, especially what seemed to him the baneful influence of consumer culture and the mass media. In he had published *The Image*: Similarly, Boorstin had been deeply troubled by the outburst of radical protest that swept university campuses in the late s. In his book *The Decline of Radicalism: Reflections on America Today* he had harsh words for the New Left radicals, asserting that they were advocating dissent, which tended to divide and destroy, rather than practicing disagreement, which allowed for discussion and, eventually, for agreement through compromise. In he was appointed Librarian of Congress by President Gerald Ford and served in that position until In spite of his

heavy administrative duties, he continued to write. Academic Acclaim Throughout his life, Boorstin received much acclaim for his historical scholarship. Boorstin was the beneficiary of more than 50 honorary degrees and was decorated by the governments of France, Belgium, Portugal, and Japan. At the Sorbonne, in Paris, he was the first incumbent chair of American History. Although his books proved exceptionally popular, Boorstin often stated that he wrote for the pleasure of writing rather than for compensation. As he entered his eighties, he continued to write and travel the lecture circuit. Essays of the Unexpected, and in , The Daniel J. Boorstin Reader, which included selections from most of his books. He followed these with The Seekers: In all Boorstin authored or edited more than 26 works, which have since been translated into more than 25 languages. Further Reading Three short sources on Daniel J. Boorstin," in John Wakeman, ed. Boorstin," in Dictionary of Literary Biography: Twentieth Century American Historians A brief biography of Boorstin can be found on the Internet at <http://www.nxgvision.com>: Need a custom written paper? Let our professional writers save your time. Need an original paper?

Chapter 7 : The Discoverers by Daniel J. Boorstin | www.nxgvision.com

About Daniel J. Boorstin. Daniel J. Boorstin was the author of The Americans, a trilogy (The Colonial Experience, The National Experience, and The Democratic Experience) that won the Francis Parkman Prize, the Bancroft Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize.

Chapter 8 : The Genius of American Politics, Boorstin

How much of our political tradition can be absorbed and used by other peoples? Daniel Boorstin's answer to this question has been chosen by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for representation in American Panorama as one of the books, old and new, most descriptive of life in the United States.

Chapter 9 : DR Daniel J Boorstin - College Paper

Daniel Boorstin Evaluation Intensify reality Daniel Boorstin, an American professor, historian, writer, and attorney, is highly celebrated for his publications that classify him as an old fashioned patriot.