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# The Roots of American Order

A Book Review by Joseph Fallon

"Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past." So wrote George Orwell in his novel *Nineteen Eighty-four*. This maxim describes the practice of the proponents of multiculturalism and Third World immigration who through their current influence over the U.S. educational establishment seek to deconstruct the American nation by first denying such a nation ever existed.

That America is a historic nation with a specifically designed culture, however, is brilliantly documented in two books: *America's British Culture* by Russell Kirk, and *The Racial Origins of the Founders of America: Extracted and Abridged from the Works of Madison Grant and Ales Hrdlicka* by R. Peterson.

In the opening paragraph of *America's British Culture* the late author, educator and conservative intellectual, Russell Kirk, writes what everyone educated before the 1970s should know: "...if somehow the British elements could be eliminated from all the cultural patterns of the United States — Americans would be left with no coherent culture in public or in private life."

In his book Professor Kirk examines each of the four cultural pillars on which the American nation was built and on which its continued survival depends: the English language, English common law, British representative government, and British mores, i.e., moral habits, beliefs, conventions and customs. At the end of his book, Professor Kirk provides a "Chronology Until the Beginning of the Twentieth Century" outlining the genesis and growth of America's British culture.

In *America's British Culture*, Russell Kirk establishes that America possesses a specific national culture that is essentially British as modified by the American wilderness. In defending this culture, Professor Kirk includes the insights of a host of luminaries from Henry Maine and Alexis de Tocqueville to Thomas Sowell and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. along with his own extensive knowledge of both British and American history.

As the historian Louis B. Wright wrote: "...the

vigor of British culture was such that it gave to all the cities and towns along the route of the westward migration a characteristic stamp. Different as are Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Lexington, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Seattle, they all have a common denominator that goes back to the seventeenth century and the stock of ideas that British settlers brought with them."

That America has always been a "Western European" nation is shown in *The Racial Origins of the Founders of America* by R. Peterson which offers readers in one volume the abridged versions of both Madison Grant's 1933 classic *The Conquest of the Continent* and Ales Hrdlicka's 1925 seminal work entitled *Old Americans*.

As Grant wrote: "It is probably accurate to say that there never has been a nation

which was so completely and definitely Protestant as well as Nordic as was the United States just after the American Revolution."

Madison Grant was an "Old American." His ancestors came to America from Scotland after the English defeated the second Jacobite rebellion of the Highland clans at Culloden Moor in 1745. Grant was a noted eugenicist who authored a monumental work on that subject in 1924 (*The Passing of the Great Race*) as well as an influential conservationist responsible, with Theodore Roosevelt, for establishing Yellowstone National Park and the New York Zoological Society.

Over 80 percent of *The Racial Origins of the Founders of America* is devoted to an abridged version of *The Conquest of the Continent* by Madison Grant. In this work Grant first establishes how from colonial times through the 19th century the racial identity of America has been Nordic, principally British.

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Grant traces the conquest of North America by British Americans and explains how, in the westward migration to the Pacific, various states became "parents" to new states. Kentucky, for instance, was the parent to Missouri; Arkansas the daughter of Tennessee.

The family of Daniel Boone, the famous pioneer whose ancestors came from England, is employed by Grant to illustrate the process. Boone himself was from Eastern Pennsylvania and migrated first to Western North Carolina, then to Kentucky, finally to Missouri. His son, in turn, was among the first settlers in Kansas, and his grandson pioneered the wilderness of Colorado.

Examining the westward migration in terms of regions, Grant describes how settlers from New England colonized the states from Upstate New York to Oregon, while Southerners settled the states from the Midwest to the Southwest.

The final pages of *The Racial Origins of the Founders of America* offer an abridged version of Ales Hrdlicka's *Old Americans*. At fourteen Hrdlicka emigrated to America from Bohemia, today's Czech Republic. He graduated from medical school, but soon changed his profession and became this country's leading physical anthropologist.

The abridged version of Hrdlicka's work shows fourteen photographs of "Old Americans," individuals whose ancestors arrived prior to the War Between the States, in many cases prior to the American Revolution.

In order to ascertain the physical and physio-logical characteristics of "Old Americans," Dr. Hrdlicka conducted a study between 1910 and 1924 on over 1,000 subjects. In the text accompanying the photographs he discusses what motivated him to initiate this study, including his concern that low fertility rates among "Old Americans" in the face of mass immigration from non-traditional sources threatened their demographic survival and hence the survival of the American nation itself. At this time Congress was responding with immigration restriction legislation passed in 1917, 1921 and 1924.

The concerns raised by Hrdlicka are valid today. It took 120 years (1790-1910) for the European portion of the American population to increase from 81% to 89%. As a result of the 1965 Immigration Reform and Control Act, which encouraged massive Third World immigration, the European American population was reduced from 89% to 75% over the next twenty-five years so that by 1990, proportionally, there were fewer European Americans than in 1790. If trends continue it is projected European Americans will be a numerical minority in sixty years. Since America has never existed without a European majority, and since the Third World has never been able to produce a political system like America's, or sustain democratic institutions in general, it is problematic whether an America with a non-European majority can endure.

*America's British Culture* by Russell Kirk and *The*

*Racial Origins of the Founders of America* by R. Peterson are rewarding works of research and inquiry. Parents in particular will be interested in purchasing copies of both books to insure their children receive a proper foundation in civics and American history. ■

[Special offer to readers of THE SOCIAL CONTRACT: *The Racial Origins of the Founders of America* by R. Peterson may be ordered for \$9.75 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling from Scott-Townsend Publishers, P.O. Box 34070, NW Washington, DC 20043.]