

2-15-2019

## Andrew Jackson: A Rhetorical Portrayal of Presidential Leadership

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### Recommended Citation

Jordan, Carol Walker (2019) "Andrew Jackson: A Rhetorical Portrayal of Presidential Leadership," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 66 : Iss. 4 , Article 10.

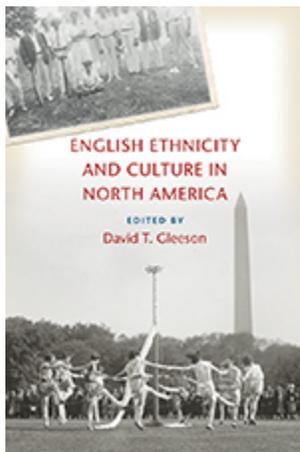
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Recommended for public and academic libraries, archival collections and societies serving related interests. Over 266 pages, black and white illustrations, a list of public library protestors, notes, notes on primary sources and an index.

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**English Ethnicity and Culture in North America.** David T. Gleeson, ed. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-61117-786-2 (Hardback); ISBN: 978-1-61117-787-9 (ebook). \$49.99. 240 p.



According to David Gleeson's introduction, Canada had 1.2 million residents of English origin, based on the 1901 census; and the English were the largest immigrant group coming to the American colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, constituting 80 percent of the British who came to the U.S. between 1820 and 1910. Yet many leading scholars assert that "English immigrants contributed nothing substantial to the varied palette of ethnicity in North America." The established view has been that there existed an "Anglo cultural mainstream" into which the English just disappeared as "invisible immigrants." Typically, the Irish, the Scots, the Germans, and other immigrants, have been recognized as distinct ethnic groups. However, this recognition has not been afforded the English which, we are reminded, is not synonymous with British. The essays compiled by Gleeson for *English Ethnicity and Culture in North America*, examine the English Diaspora and attempt to show the links between England, its people and its culture to various parts of North America – particularly the United States – in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and, as such, challenge this established view.

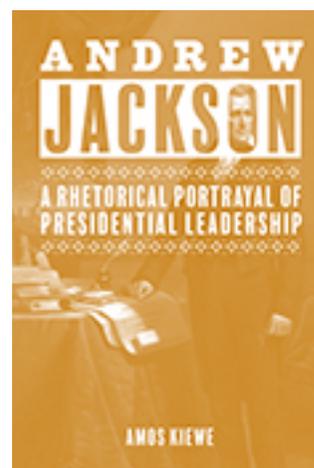
Looking simply at the cover and title, one might expect Gleeson's book to be primarily about the finer details of English culture such as beliefs, rituals, social practices, religion, language, dress, music, dance, art, etc. that were introduced to American society. These things are indeed of interest and discussed as part of the evidence to consider;

but, the ten essays cover even broader territory than this. The essays provide a wealth of information regarding the English Diaspora, including but not limited to immigrant statistics; the role of English benevolent societies in maintaining and protecting English ethnicity; cultural mentalities relating to work and standards that influenced socio-political changes in the U.S.; the Anglican Church's influence on religion, education and architecture; English social ideals and customs that influenced America's attitudes toward land ownership, freedom and liberty; and even sports ideals and leisure pastimes that influenced contemporary society, some of which we still see the effects of today. This at first seemingly disparate collection of essays shows different and unique aspects of the claimed English contribution.

The stated primary goal of Gleeson's work was to challenge the established view that English immigrants made no significant contribution to ethnicity in North America. Each of the essays is well-researched and cited, but do they work together as a whole to effectively challenge the established view? While the book would have benefited from a concluding chapter to tie together the wealth of information unpacked by the essays with that of the challenge that was issued; I think the answer is, yes, there is evidence of such contribution. Ultimately, in many cases the English cultural contributions to America discussed in the essays were taken and transformed over the years into something more uniquely American and woven into the fabric of the culture so seamlessly that they apparently became invisible to many scholars. The essays contained in Gleeson's book expertly highlight some of the Anglo threads of the American cultural tapestry.

*Paris E. Webb*  
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**Andrew Jackson: A Rhetorical Portrayal of Presidential Leadership.** Amos Kiewe. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2019. \$39.95.



Presidential rhetoric is a fascinating study when applied to the administration of our seventh president, Andrew Jackson (1829-1937). Amos Kiewe shows us that Andrew Jackson was a successful and respected leader and a believer in the wisdom of the people when it came to leading a nation. He shows us how Andrew Jackson crafted a new presidency and gave us the opportunity for a democracy.

Amos Kiewe traces the years before and during Jackson's presidency to show how rhetoric in speaking and in letters was Jackson's mainstay. Ignoring the political elite who historically secured and sustained elections, Jackson took his campaign for election and future governance to "the people". Letters and publications circulating among people of the country carried in them Jackson's messages of a new day where the Constitution and "the Union" coupled with the wishes of the people should lead the nation.

To move the American republic to a democracy was Jackson's hope. Rallies and road trips from place to place put Jackson in front of "the people". Speaking directly through letters or speeches Jackson shared his ideas and needs for change or support of governmental policies to benefit the people. Through Jackson the people became a new voice in politics.

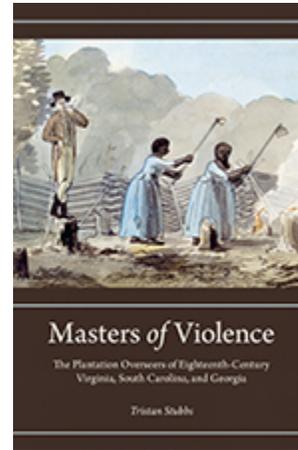
Kiewe says Jackson was an activist president, a strong president, a skilled politician, a skilled administrator, "he understood the games of politics quite well". (p. 247) Through examples of his leadership, tales of his interactions with his colleagues and perspectives on the issues of the day, Jackson came alive before us as readers.

As one explores this fascinating study, it is easy to see parallels between Andrew Jackson and Donald Trump's presidential leaderships. I encourage you to read and look for the parallels that can be drawn.

This book is recommended for academic libraries, public libraries, archival collections, faculty adoption for texts. Of the 300 pages, the text is 263, Notes 265-289, Bibliography 291-294, Index 294-300. Illustrations in black and white follow page 143.

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**Masters of Violence: The Plantation Overseers of Eighteenth-Century Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia.** Tristan Stubbs. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2018. ISBN 978-1-61117-884-5 (Hard). ISBN 978-1-61117-885-2 (Ebook). \$44.99. 248 p.



It is possible your first reaction to the title of Tristan Stubbs' book, "Masters of Violence: The Plantation Overseers of Eighteenth-Century Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia", is a reflection. You may recall Harriet Beecher Stowe's characterization of overseers, "great, tall, slapsided, (a) two-fisted renegade son of Vermont...who had gone through a regular apprenticeship in hardness and brutality and taken his degree to be admitted to practice...(he was) the absolute despot of the estate" (p.142).

From films, classroom discussions, and authors, like Frederick Douglas' "My Bondage and My Freedom" (p.142), most of us saw plantation overseers as malevolent characters who "presses everything at the end of the lash; pays no attention to the sick ...and drives them out again at the first moment. He has no other interest than to make a big ...crop" (p.143).

Stubbs' research highlights practices of overseers on plantations and farm lands where enslaved peoples (bondpeople) were oftentimes brutally treated through forced work to make crops profitable. "When whippings came they were often prolonged, sometimes fatal, and always brutal". (p.2)

In those early days of plantation life, plantation owners knew and might be described as complicit in the violence meted out by the overseer. Plantation owners sought overseers they believed capable of managing the workforce, knowing farming methods and delivering crops to the markets. Reasoning was that a highly productive enslaved labor force, a successful crop and competitive sales were the overseer's obligations.

Stubbs points out as time moved forward mechanization of farming, and the American Revolution, coupled with voices of anti-slavery advocates, there came a gradual shift in