A Reader on

THE AMERICAN SOCIAL ORDER AND ITS CULTURE:
ASPECTS OF HIGH AND POPULAR CULTURE

Prepared for

The American studies Seminar
In Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia

Fall 1982

by

The American Studies Program
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana USA
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## I. OPENING SESSION

## II. SUCCESS IN AMERICA

1. New Perspectives on the Franklin Heritage


2. The Horatio Alger Myth of Success

   Excerpt from Horatio Alger, Jr., *Ragged Dick; Or, Street Life in New York* (1867)

   Excerpt from Horatio Alger, Jr., *Ben, The Luggage Boy; Or, Among the Wharves* (1870)

   Excerpt from Horatio Alger, Jr., *Struggling Upward; Or, Luke Larkin's Luck* (1886)

   Excerpt from Horatio Alger, Jr., *Jed, The Poorhouse Boy* (1900)

   Excerpt from F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925)


   Russell Conwell, "Acres of Diamonds" (1916)

   Norman Vincent Peale, "Believe in Yourself," in *The Power of Positive Thinking* (1952)

4. The American Dream or Nightmare: *Death of a Salesman*

   A. Howard Fuller, "A Salesman is Everybody," *Fortune* (1949)

5. The Rise of the Legal Profession

   "Fit for a Lawyer"
"The Conduct of Attorneys" 42
"A Note on Georgia" 43
David Hackett Fischer, "American History" (1974) 44
Michael Grossberg, "Altruism and Professionalism: Boston and the Rise of Organized Legal Aid, 1900-1925" 48

III. CHANGING IMAGES OF THE CITY

1. The City in the American Mind
   Nathaniel Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" 60
   Edgar Allen Poe, "The Man of the Crowd" 68

2. Black Perspectives on the American City
   Ralph Ellison, "Harlem is Nowhere," in Shadow and Act 79

3. Rescue Missions in the Cities
   Excerpt from Charles Sheldon, In His Steps: "What Would Jesus Do?" (1899) 82
   Excerpts from Walter Rauschenbusch, Christianity and the Social Crisis (1907) 83

4. Zoning and City Planning

5. Popular Entertainment in the City

IV. THE ARTIST IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

1. "Culture" and Democracy: The Evolution of an American Dilemma
   Excerpts from George Bancroft, "The Office of the People in Art, Government, and Religion," in Literary and Historical Miscellanies (1855) 120

T. S. Eliot, "The Class and the Elite," in Notes Toward The Definition of Culture (1948) 137

2. A Tortured Soul: the Modern Artist

3. The Themes and Reception of Edward Hopper and Norman Rockwell


V. POPULAR RELIGION

1. Religious Diversity and the Freedom of Association

Mark DeWolf Howe, "Federalism and the First Amendment," in The Garden and the Wilderness (1965) 152


2. The Playwright as Preacher

3. The Television Preachers

Billy Graham, "Will God Spare America?" in America's Hour of Decision (1951) 176

"A Tide of Born-Again," Newsweek (Sept. 15, 1980) 182

VI. THE RACIAL PROBLEM IN AMERICA

1. Brown v. Board of Education


2. Bigotry on Stage

3. Invisible Man and the Politics of Black Power

Irving Howe, "Black Boys and Native Sons," in A World More Attractive (1963) 191

Ralph Ellison, "The World and the Jug," in Shadow and Act 201
4. Religion and Race: Black Sects and Cults

W. E. B. DuBois, "Of the Passing of the First-Born," in The Souls of Black Folk (1903) 218

Elijah Muhammad, "An Independent Black Nation and America's Downfall, in Message to the Blackman in America (1965) 222

"Summary of the Peace Mission Movement Tenets," in Kenneth Burnham, God Comes to America 226

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail," in Why We Can't Wait (1963) 229

VII. CHANGING SEXUAL MORES IN AMERICA

1. The State and Private Autonomy in Recent Law

Excerpts from Dukeminier and Krier, Property (1981) 239

2. The Impact of the 70s Women's Movement on Fiction by American Women


Excerpt from Marilyn French, The Women's Room (1977) 263

3. Horse-sense and Sensibility: New Popular Images of the American Man

4. The Contemporary Family: Personal and Professional Reflections