

THE STATESMAN

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Announcements:

Any veteran or their dependants, who qualifies for the G.I. Bill, may now apply their veteran's benefits toward tuition at GWC.

Check out the new and improved [George Wythe College Bookstore](#).

A Thomas Jefferson Education Book on CD (unabridged) is [now available](#)

Seminars on [Next Page](#)

Classics Come Alive in Europe 2005

Dr. Shanon D. Brooks

A few years ago, in a local newspaper article reporting on a George Wythe College excursion to Africa, Dr. Andrew Groft was quoted as saying, "There is something powerful in mentored world travel that adds life to books and classroom discussion. Students need to spend time, a lot of time, reading and discussing the great ideas of the world. And those fortunate enough to sit at the Parthenon or walk through Versailles or experience Le Louvre and contemplate what they have read, will understand more keenly than is otherwise possible." That was true then and it is true now.

On June 1, 2005, Drs. Groft, Earl and myself will be leading an excursion through central Europe to augment a year of world history studies. We will travel

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For more newsletters, [click here](#).

Pop Quiz:

**Which Side are You On
in the 21st Century?**

By Oliver DeMille

(*The "American Way": Family and Community in the Shaping of the American Identity*, by Allan Carlson, 2003, ISI Books, \$15)

Perhaps the most important book written in modern America was David Reisman's little-known work *The Lonely Crowd*. It is more important today than it was at the time of its 1950 publication, since we are now living in the world it predicted—a fulfillment which needs to be reversed.

The Lonely Crowd argued that the historical-traditional type of American, rooted in an "inner-directed" mixture of "Greek-style rationality" and "Judeo-Christian visions of morality," was passing away. The replacement, the new type of American, was the "other-directed" man. As Allan Carlson put it in his excellent new book, *The "American Way"*: "Whereas 'inner-directed' individuals responded to a fixed,

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Seminars:

- April 12-17** [Statesmanship Invitational](#)
- May 3–29** [Summer Seminar: Psychology](#)
- May 17-18** [The Writings of Thomas Jefferson](#)
- June 1–30** [Summer Seminar: World History](#)
- June 17-18** [Core & Love of Learning](#)
- June 14-26** [Youth for America \(Sessions 1-4\)](#)
- June 25-26** [Scholar Phase: An In-Depth GWC Seminar](#)
- June 28–30** [Summer Seminar: Shakespeare](#)
- August 17–18** [Summer Seminar: Shakespeare](#)
- August 2–28** [Summer Seminar: The Great Political Thinkers](#)
- September 1** [School Starts On-Campus](#)

For a Face to Face with Greatness seminar in your area, [click here.](#)

Pop Quiz Continued:

internalized moral code set by the extended family, ‘other-directed’ men looked to their peers and to shifts in fashion for guidance in ordering their lives.”

William Whyte argued in *The Organization Man* that, after World War II, America fundamentally changed from the focus on the Puritan Ethic to that of the Corporate Ethic. The resulting change in behavior caused a wide-scale transformation in the very soul of the typical American. This change led to, as Michael Platt argues, the rise of the teenager culture, where one’s beliefs are the result of one’s peers rather than one’s parents, grandparents, traditions of church, and the national creed. Nor were the organization *men* the only ones who changed—over time women, youth and even children adopted the new paradigm.

Indeed, this change is the great shift in American

history. The organization-pleasing employee, the outer-directed father, the peer-responsive mother, the be-in-the-popular-crowd youth, the impress-the-Joneses neighbor, the keep-up-appearances church member, the check-the-polls politician, the increase-our-ratings reporter, the bottom-line-businessman-preacher, the for-profit teacher, the gone-to-Florida grandparent, the sex-partner intern, the typical revolutionary professor, the multi-cultural college student, the sensitive no-chest modern man, the fully-fulfilled-by-my-career-don’t-need-men woman, the wealth-is-success young single “Friends,”—these are the new American. The frontiersman has been displaced by “patio man,” the pioneer mother by “Ellen”.

This new American is a far cry from the old American. Indeed the true American crossed the ocean, kicked out the redcoats, built farms and businesses one at a time, pushed carts across the plains, gave their blood to free the slaves, stopped Hitler, demanded full freedom for everyone regardless of race, religion or gender, and will rise again to face the challenges ahead. Gratefully, the old American character is not dead. Far from it. Indeed, the battle now is to determine which America will survive into the 22nd Century.

At the center of the battle stands the family. In the eyes of the new type of American the family, the inclusion of the core family unit and its naturally extending family community, is archaic, paternalistic, even quaint, an object of pity or at best humor. To the corporate culture families are competitors—taking too much of an employee’s time, psychological energy and attention, and offering too many “free” services which ought to be left to the market—childcare, counseling, food preparation, elder care, education, entertainment, consulting, etc. Consider the “exciting” increase in corporate profits and the GDP as families outsource more of their traditional roles.

But in truth many of these services, and many others,

are best offered by the extended family. Both the culture and the market are aligned *against* the family and *for* individualism; individualism fuels the pop culture and the corporate economy. Among the youth, individualism is all the rage. The heroes are not individualists in the pioneering sense which made America great, but façade individualists who look just like each other by standing out from their families and traditions. In politics this means libertarianism—including the part of libertarianism supported by liberals (openly legalized sex of every stripe, legalized drugs and abortion, etc.) and the libertarianism encouraged by conservatives (the reduction of taxation, end of all entitlements, blind faith in the free market, etc.).

The resultant ideal, which the current culture is pursuing, looks like Ayn Rand's all-knowing laissez-faire relativism of economics, foreign policy, finances, family arrangements, morals, churches and beliefs. Republicans are generally for the first three and against the last three, most Democrats take the exact opposite stance. Both major parties, and the market itself, are overwhelmingly against the middle item—family arrangements.

Against this new definition of “The American Way” stands the surprising mixture of traditional liberalism, traditional conservatism, and a new grassroots emphasis on the family. Just attend a modern home-school conference with its new-age pony-tailed liberals and militant-for-Jesus evangelical conservatives sitting next to each other and enthusiastically nodding along with the true majority of the group—upper middle class professionals. Amazingly, you'll see the same set of people at a global pro-family rally. And do a study of the over 3 million new “down shifters” who are making the choice for family. In contrast, the Democratic Convention boasts a majority of social libertarians while the Republican Convention features a majority of financial libertarians.

This is the Great Debate of the 21st Century: Will our nation become the champion of an individualism (ironically this is the same as corporatism, since they share the same goals) based on “Sex in the City” physical pleasure and “Survivor”-style materialistic gain, or of strong families, moral character, increased economic opportunity to all, and protection and charity to the weakest among us? The Great Debate of the 20th Century was whether or not the State is the central unit of society. The resounding answer was “no”: Both the fascist and communist state were rejected by force, and the modern collectivist state has lost all credibility among the American youth—its time is limited.

The new debate, the Great Question of the 21st Century, has emerged as a deceptively simple one: Is the corporation or the family the central unit of society? Or put in a personal way, “do I want to spend my life making money and attending exciting Manhattan-style nighttime parties,” or “do I want to become an adult, raise a family, and build my community, church and nation like my grandparents and (perhaps) parents did?”

This is the current question on the American campus, from Harvard to Stanford to their State University counterparts, and the precursor of the workplace discussion in the coming decades and century. So far the most articulate scholarly voice for the family is that of Allan Carlson. Carlson is well known for his leadership of the Howard Center, and as the co-founder of the World Congress on the Family. His new book, *The “American Way”: Family and Community in the Shaping of the American Identity* is a must-read for anyone who wants to see the family succeed in the Great Debate of the 21st Century. The book doesn't provide all the answers—those will have to be formulated, popularized and applied by the rising statesmen of this generation—but it does ask the right questions to ignite the discussion.

And make no mistake, this is *the* discussion of our time. By 2050 either the family or the corporation will stand triumphant, and the sides are being chosen today.

(The "American Way": Family and Community in the Shaping of American Identity may be ordered for \$15 at gwcbookstore@gwc.edu)

Classics Come Alive Continued:

backward through European History starting our trip in London, England and traversing through France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Greece. Can you imagine, twenty-eight days of walking in the footsteps of many of the greatest thinkers and statesmen the world has ever known? This could be the trip that changes your life forever. You will never look at European History the same way again!

Many agree with me, in fact we already have forty-five GWC students and friends enrolled for this European Panaramic Tour. And since airfare, hotels, ground transportation, meals and instruction are all included in the price, it makes sense. All those who are going will receive a complete syllabus in September so they can prepare to make the most of this adventure. Students can earn up to fifteen credits and can opt to pay for them separately up to a year after the trip is completed. The price for those under age twenty-six is \$3,500 and for those who are a little older, the price is slightly higher. Best of all we have 15 seats left!

If you are interested in joining us on this World History Field Experience, Just go to www.eftours.com and check out tour #246064. If you enroll, only \$95 needs to be paid now and the rest can be paid off by or before March of 2005. After you enroll, you will receive an email with more information about preparations from your tour leader Dr. Andrew Groft.

There will be plenty of academics during this trip and enough faculty are coming along to study in true George Wythe College fashion! These seats will be gone by the 16th of April so if you are inclined to go, please do not procrastinate. Looking forward to seeing you in EUROPE!

For more newsletters, [click here](#).