Culture Wars
Class 3
Part 2
Equal Access Act 1984

• If a school allows some groups to meet after school for non-curriculum purposes it may not refuse to allow meetings of groups wishing to discuss religious content.

• Teachers or community members may not promote or participate in the meetings.

• The club must be student initiated and participation must be voluntary.
Law Declared Unconstitutional in Abington

"At least ten verses from the Holy Bible shall be read, without comment, at the opening of each public school on each school day. Any child shall be excused from such Bible reading, or attending such Bible reading, upon the written request of his parent or guardian."
Pew Charitable Trust concluded:

For a public school class to study the Bible without violating constitutional limits, the class would have to include critical rather than devotional readings and allow open inquiry into the history and content of biblical passages.
Sex Education

What Should Children Know?

When Should They Know It?

TODAY in ROOM 301
"THE BIRDS AND THE BEES"
(AND MUCH MUCH MORE!)
Dr. Mary Calderone
Director of Sex Information and Education Council of the United States

SIECUS Guidelines
Encourage young people to make responsible choices about sexual relationships by practicing abstinence, postponing sexual intercourse, resisting unwanted and early sexual intercourse, and using contraception and safer sex when they do become sexually active.
SIECUS Approach

“We (at SIECUS) feel that in our day and age ‘just say no to sex’ doesn’t work. The abstinence model is not a workable model. My own slogan is ‘wait a few years until it’s appropriate for you emotionally and in terms of your capacity for responsibility.’ I think that would have a wider audience than abstinence. Just postponing sexual activity for a few years would work wonders in terms of reducing teenage pregnancy.”

Harold Lief. One of the Founders of SIECUS
Backlash Against SIECUS
Abstinence Only Education

It's my future! I want to be an engineer... sex can wait!
Standards for Abstinence Only Programs

Under the governing law and regulations Federal funding would only be available for a program that:

• *has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains* to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;

• *teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage* as the expected standard for all school-age children;

• *teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy,* sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;

• *teaches that a mutually faithful, monogamous relationship in context of marriage is the expected standard of sexual activity;*

• *teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances*
Abstinence Only?
Teens Don’t Receive Timely Info on Birth Control

A Planned Parenthood study concluded:

• Only about a third of girls and half of boys receive information about birth control before they first have intercourse

• The lack of information about birth control is due in large part to the fact that one out of four teenagers in the U.S. attends abstinence-only programs that do not provide information about birth control
State Requirements for Abstinence Education

37 states require that information on abstinence be provided.
   26 states require that abstinence be stressed.
   11 states require that abstinence be covered

19 of the 37 states requiring abstinence instruction also required that instruction on the importance of engaging in sexual activity only within marriage be provided.
Virginia Law on Sex Education

Virginia does not mandate sex or HIV education, but if it is provided parents must get notice and opportunity to opt out and class must:

- Cover contraception
- Cover (but not required to stress) abstinence
- Cover importance of sex only within marriage
- Cover avoiding sexual coercion
Arlington Ninth-Grade Program

• The student will recognize the benefits of abstinence from premarital sexual intercourse.

• The student will conclude that a mature, committed, loving, trusting, sharing marriage provides the most ideal relationship in which to express intimacy through sexual intercourse.

• The student will examine the reasons why some teenagers engage in sexual intercourse outside of marriage and the shortcomings of each reason, and will recognize that sexual intimacy has a special role in marriage as an expression of the couple’s committed love and as a way to begin a family.

• The student will review factors to consider in family planning and be aware of contraceptive methods.
Moral Values in School Curriculum
“Secular Humanism”

“Secular humanism challenges every principle on which America was founded. It advocates abortion-on-demand, recognition of homosexuals, free use of pornography, legalizing of prostitution and gambling, and free use of drugs, among other things... It promotes the socialization of all humanity into a world commune.”

Jerry Falwell

Humanists want to create such an obsession with sex among our young people that they will have no time or interest for spiritual pursuits.

Pastor Leo Wine of Ashland, Oregon
Kanawha, West Virginia Textbook Controversy

Alice Moore
Alice Moore criticized books which suggested that children needed to establish their own values.

“It wasn't just a matter of throwing in foul words, you know, for children to see. It was a matter of getting children to accept a whole new idea that you have to establish and clarify your own values. The idea that a parent could teach their child that ‘this is right, this is what you should do, this is wrong, you should never do this’; that had to be removed to free this child from the idea that there's an authority that tells them what's right and wrong. That they themselves can determine by themselves what is right for them and truth is what ever is truth to that individual.”
Mel & Norma Gabler
Founders of Educational Research Analysts
Conservative Christian organization that reviews textbooks submitted for adoption in Texas

Subject areas of concern include:
• Scientific weaknesses in evolutionary theories
• Phonics-based reading instruction
• Principles and benefits of free enterprise
• Original intent of the U.S. Constitution
• Respect for Judeo-Christian morals
• Emphasis on abstinence in sex education
• Politically-correct degradation of academics
History: Heroic Narrative or Less Flattering Truths?
Reconstruction
“The white men were roused by a mere instinct of self-preservation . . . . until at last there had sprung into existence a great Ku Klux Klan, a veritable empire of the South, to protect the Southern country.”

WOODROW WILSON
National Council for History Standards

Lynne Cheney – Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities
1980

Howard Zinn

A People's History of the United States

1492-PRESENT

"Historians may well view it as a step toward a coherent new version of American history." —Eric Foner, New York Times Book Review

P.S. INSIGHTS, INTERVIEWS & MORE...

HarperPerennial Modern Classics

2009

Howard Zinn

A Young People's History of the United States
Whom & What Should We Teach About?

- Ku Klux Klan: 17
- McCarthyism: 19
- Harriet Tubman: 6
- Einstein: 0
- Jonas Salk: 0
- Robert E. Lee: 0
- Wright Brothers: 0
“What went wrong? One member of the National Council for History Standards (the group that oversaw the drafting of the standards) says that the 1992 presidential election unleashed the forces of political correctness. According to this person, who wishes not to be named, those who were "pursuing the revisionist agenda" no longer bothered to conceal their "great hatred for traditional history." Various political groups, such as African-American organizations and Native American groups, also complained about what they saw as omissions and distortions. As a result, says the council member, "nobody dared to cut the inclusive part," and what got left out was traditional history.”

Lynne Cheney
Rush Limbaugh Trashes Standards

Basic message of the standards is that "our country is inherently evil."
Guidelines for Advanced Placement American History

Course and Exam Description
Including the Curriculum Framework
Effective Fall 2014
Objections to 2014 A.P. American History Standards

• “As I read through the document, I saw a consistently negative view that highlights oppressors and exploiters.

• “Our nation’s founders are portrayed as bigots who ‘developed a belief in white superiority’ and ‘a strong belief in British racial and and cultural superiority’ which led to ‘the creation of a rigid racial hierarchy.’”

• The standards failed to emphasize the heroism and sacrifice of Americans in World War 2. The standards state that “wartime experiences such as the internment of Japanese Americans, challenges to civil liberties, debates over race and segregation, and the decision to drop the atomic bomb raised questions about American values.”

John Krieger, Retired History Teacher
Managing History

Scholastic had to pull the book due to objections to “happy slaves.”