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Sample of Senior Honors Thesis Abstracts

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The Politics of Pride: Conservative Visions of American Nationalism in the Vietnam War Era

Anna Lisa Lowenstein

The Vietnam War resulted in a military loss that forced Americans to reassess their notions of nationalism. The pacifist anti-war movement evoked deep emotional responses from both the political right and political left. These responses, compounded by the tense economic and social pressures of the 1960s and 1970s, motivated the left to reject nationalism. In contrast, the right embraced American pride and villainized the anti-war movement. Using documents, news and popular media, and literature from 1962 to 1986, this thesis argues that nationalism was essential in binding together three disparate groups of American conservatives in order to create a political coalition. These groups—the white working class, intellectuals, and far-right extremists—coalesced despite their varying social and economic needs and different visions of nationhood. The result was increased success for Republican politicians and a legitimization of conservatism in the public eye.

The Unity of the Roses: How the Marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York Created the Foundation of the Tudor Political Identity

Lorenza Colagrossi

This thesis examines how Henry VII utilized his marriage to Elizabeth of York to create the foundation of the Tudor political identity. It will focus on the use of visual imagery to create national unity and justify his place on the throne. Henry's reign was marked by a delicate balancing act. On the one hand, he sought to celebrate his wife's Yorkist lineage and the legitimacy it

provided for his rule. On the other hand, he wanted to emphasize that he was king in his own right. Through his propaganda and symbolism, a new image of kingship was born. The use of visual imagery to depict Henry extended beyond the crown and into the nobility. Henry ascended to power following a turbulent period of civil war. The conflict left no member of the nobility unscarred. Through visual imagery such as genealogical scrolls and stained-glass windows, they expressed their sentiments about Henry. These images demonstrate how their allegiances during the Wars of the Roses impacted how they saw their new king. This thesis compares and contrasts how Henry VII and his son, Henry VIII, depicted themselves and their reigns. Unlike his father, Henry VIII had a legitimate claim to the throne and did not rely on symbolism and other means to justify his position as king. This important distinction between the two monarchs was reflected in the unique ways they depicted themselves.

Loyalty and Disloyalty in Urban America: A Comparative Study of New York City and Philadelphia Politics

Justin Greenman

This thesis examines the similarities and differences between the politics of New York City and Philadelphia during the American Civil War. As the war progressed, both cities diverged, with Philadelphia existing throughout politically stable and relatively politically united, while New York City for much of the war was divided and prone to violence and political extremism. The central question of this thesis, therefore, has been why did Philadelphia and New York City diverge so sharply and if and how did conceptions of loyalty and disloyalty play a role? My thesis is unique in focusing on how the politics of each city were defined by a conflict over defining loyalty to the Union and the war effort, definitions that evolved as the war progressed. In the end, one's loyalty and disloyalty could not be judged by one's religion, partisan identification, or even political allies. It

especially could not be judged by one's rhetoric, which was often vague at best and deceitful of one's true intentions at worst. In fact, if there is one conclusion that this paper easily makes, it is that there were no universally agreed upon, or even mostly agreed upon, definitions of what constituted loyalty and disloyalty, only subjective opinions altered by time and animated by the politics of each city.

'A Warmth of Feeling that the Lies of our Enemies Will Never Eradicate:' The Battle of Cable Street and the Evolving Memory of Anti-Fascism in Britain, 1931-1949

Sam Orloff

Whereas the function of nostalgia in right-wing politics is readily apparent in contemporary society, nostalgia on the political left is less self-evident. To explore the role of nostalgia in left-wing politics, this thesis considers the evolving memory and meaning of the Battle of Cable Street, a 1936 clash in which anti-fascists descended on the streets of London's East End to block Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists (BUF) from provocatively marching through the heavily Jewish district. The events at Cable Street are further contextualized by charting the trajectory of the broader anti-fascist discourse in Britain from the rise of the BUF in the early 1930s to Britain's postwar reconstruction under Prime Minister Clement Attlee. In doing so, it is also possible to identify the tension between the left-wing internationalism and the demands of domestic politics, as well as the nature of the relationship between Britain's Labour Party and the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) in the 1930s and 1940s.