



Thomas Cole, *Destruction* (1836)

US  
Writing &  
Culture  
1780-1920

Engl. 213

What made the American Revolution so radical was “the equation of the **governance of the self and the governance of society**, a reliance on a moral constitution to check and balance passions in individuals and a written one to check and balance them in politics”

-Gordon Wood



“What to the American slave is your 4<sup>th</sup> of July? [...] a day that reveals to him, more than all other days of the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him your celebration is a sham [...] There is not a nation of the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States”

-Frederick Douglass “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July” (1852)





“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven”

“And let us resolve they will say of our day and our generation ... that we did protect and pass on lovingly that shining city on a hill.”

-Ronald Reagan





# The Course Of Empire

(1834 - 1836)





*The Savage State* (1834)





*The Arcadian or Pastoral State (1834)*





*The Consummation of Empire (1836)*





*Destruction (1836)*





*Desolation* (1836)





There is the moral of all human tales;  
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past.  
First freedom and then Glory – when that fails,  
Wealth, vice, corruption – barbarism at last.  
And History, with all her volumes vast,  
Hath but one page....

Byron, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, Canto 4 (1812-18)

Thomas Cole (1801-1848)



“For in a warm climate, no man will labour for himself who can make another labour for him. This is so true that of the proprietors of slaves a very small proportion indeed are ever seen to labour. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever: that considering numbers, nature and natural means only, a revolution of the wheel of fortune, an exchange of situation, is among possible events: that it may become probable by supernatural interference!”

-Thomas Jefferson *Notes on the State of Virginia*





John Gast *Spirit of the Frontier* (1872)  
[Manifest Destiny]

US  
Writing  
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English 213

some things to know about class

2 essays, 1 seen exam  
class structure  
note-taking  
laptops, etc.  
Late policy  
PDFs  
next week