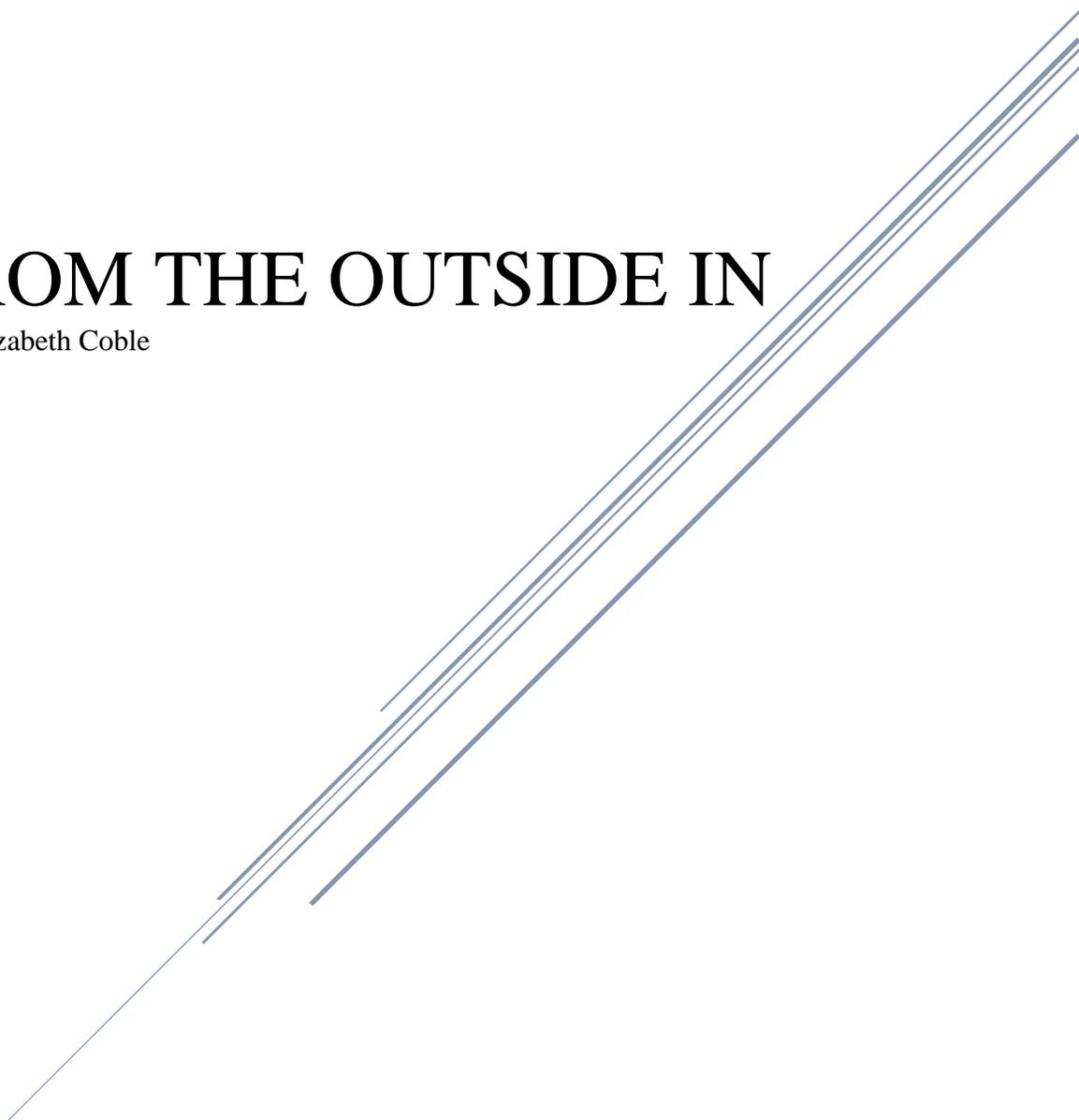


FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

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HIST 413
10/16/2018

Time is an ever changing and moving thing. The thought of change and time tend to go hand in hand. When looking back in time, it is easy to see the slightest transformation. The United States of America's history is one of the greatest places to see this idea of alteration through time. One of the most known, or easiest to see, is through culture and race. As time passed there was a shift between these two notions. The people throughout the country begin to see others, less for their culture, but rather instead for their race. It was through these differences that America as whole grew. All it took was a look from the outside in.

No longer was the heritage of the people the first glimpse taken in. Instead, the characteristics of the physical body was all that was needed for the viewer. With just one glance the viewer, in their mind, had everything they needed to know about who the person they were looking at was. They could tell the history of the individual; giving detailed information about where, when, and how they had gotten there without a single word spoken to the stranger being looked upon. The only problem was these forms of stereotyping were normally incorrect. As stated by Gordon, "The idea of race was becoming sharper and more stable—what varied were the meanings, numbers, and labels of these "races." ... But at the same time "race" was used to refer to humanity, as the "human race," and to refer to ill-defined "peoples" or "ethnic" groups."¹

When looking at the labels of humanity within America, one will find an array of characterizations spanning the entire continent. North to South, East to West. Direction in the end played a role. Gordon describes how the world's people were divided "... into three, four, and five basic races, typically, Caucasian, Ethiopian, Mongolian, Malay, and American

¹ Gordon, Linda. *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*. Fifth Printing, (2001), 12.

(meaning... American Indian [at the time]).”² But as one moved West, these classifications became simpler. Moving from ethnicity, diversely becoming based on color. White, black, yellow, brown, red; these became the descriptions for the western immigrants of America.³

As the number of immigrants moving West increased. An effect was caused between the different cultures forcing them to engage with one another more often. As documented by Limerick, “the American west was an important meeting ground, the point where Indian America, Latin America, Anglo-America, Afro-America, and Asia intersected.”⁴ With every interaction an emotion was formed. Good or bad, the news always spread across the land. After time, an emotion would be attached to a certain ethnic group or rather, a tone of skin color. An example of this kind of relationship can be seen between the history of American Indians and the western pioneers. Specifically, it was the interaction between the Comanches and the pioneers of the western frontier. As told by Gwynne, “They hated Indians with a particular passion, considering them something less than fully human, and thus blessed with inalienable rights to absolutely nothing.”⁵ Through conquest, new outlooks are formed.

Religion, clothing, as well as language were just a few of the differences that were floating around between the different cultures during the time. But for some cultures, there were some differences that could not be accepted. As explained by Gwynne, “For westering settlers, the great majority of whom believed in the idea of absolute good and evil, and thus of universal standards of moral behavior, this was nearly impossible to understand. Part of it had to do with the Comanches’ theory of the nature of the universe, which was vastly different from that of the

² Gordon, Linda. *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*. Fifth Printing, (2001), 12.

³ Gordon, Linda. *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*. Fifth Printing, (2001), 13.

⁴ Limerick, Patricia Nelson. *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West*. W.W. Norton & Co., (2006), 27.

⁵ Gwynne, S. C. *Empire of the Summer Moon*. A Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc, (2010), 20.

civilized West.”⁶ Brutality. The Indians had a lifestyle that most would define as this. This type of force will cause strangers to help one another. Through these differences of life, the western pioneers, with the Indians against them, were able to cause the states to come together as a whole. Working together to bring peace to those who needed it.

⁶ Gwynne, S. C. *Empire of the Summer Moon*. A Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc, (2010), 45.