



The Significance of the Frontier in American History

By Frederick Jackson Turner

Martino Fine Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 32 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 5.8in. x 0.3in. 2014 Reprint of 1894 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition. The Frontier Thesis or Turner Thesis, is the argument advanced by historian Frederick Jackson Turner in 1894 that American democracy was formed by the American Frontier. He stressed the process—the moving frontier line—and the impact it had on pioneers going through the process. He also stressed consequences of a ostensibly limitless frontier and that American democracy and egalitarianism were the principle results. In Turners thesis the American frontier established liberty by releasing Americans from European mindsets and eroding old, dysfunctional customs. The frontier had no need for standing armies, established churches, aristocrats or nobles, nor for landed gentry who controlled most of the land and charged heavy rents. Frontier land was free for the taking. Turner first announced his thesis in a paper entitled The Significance of the Frontier in American History, delivered to the American Historical Association in 1893 in Chicago. He won very wide acclaim among historians and intellectuals. Turners emphasis on the importance of the frontier in shaping American character influenced the interpretation found in thousands of scholarly histories. By the...

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