

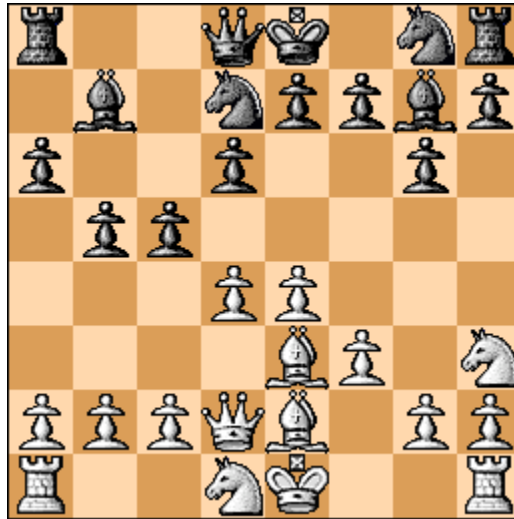
Facts and Narratives in Teaching History

Daniel Immerwahr

UC Berkeley

June 2010

Chunking



Chunking

02 14 1980

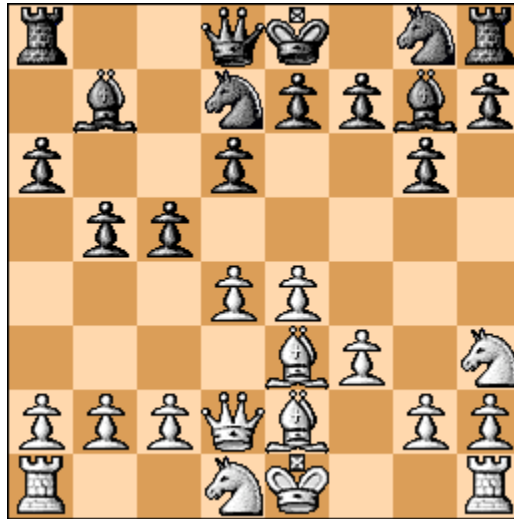
February 14, 1980

Valentine's Day, 1980

1. Edgar Allan Poe
2. Edgar Allan Poe
3. William Faulkner
4. Harriet Beecher Stowe
5. Harriet Beecher Stowe
6. Vladimir Nabokov
7. Vladimir Nabokov
8. Walt Whitman
9. Walt Whitman
10. Theodore Dreiser
11. Toni Morrison
12. Toni Morrison
13. Herman Melville

1. George Washington
2. George Washington
3. John Adams
4. Thomas Jefferson
5. Thomas Jefferson
6. James Madison
7. James Madison
8. James Monroe
9. James Monroe
10. John Quincy Adams
11. Andrew Jackson
12. Andrew Jackson
13. Martin Van Buren

Narratives: Chess Rules for History



A Fact-Based Question

When did the Boston Tea Party take place?

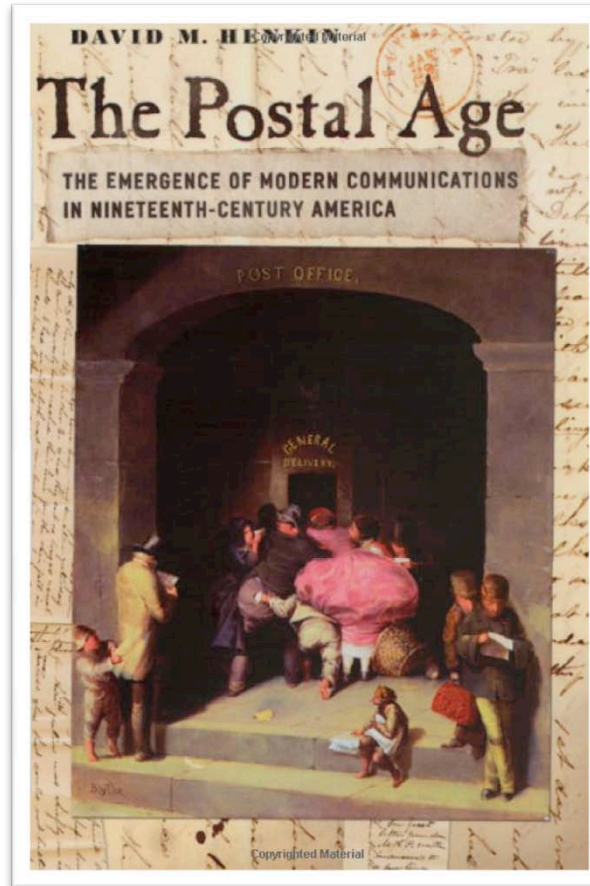
Student 1: December of 1770

Student 2: December of 1776

Student 3: December of 1773

Three components of narratives

1. Periods
2. Events
3. Causes



David Henkin's *The Postal Age*

Teaching narratives

- The textbook is a reference work
- Focus questions
- Breaking free from the iron cage of chronology

1865: 13th Amendment

1866: Suffragists form the Equal Rights Association

1883: Brooklyn Bridge opens

1895: Booker T. Washington's "Atlanta Compromise"

1908: *Muller v. Oregon* on women's right to work

1915: D. W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*

1920: 19th Amendment

1927: Marcus Garvey deported

1930: Empire State Building opens

1932: Tuskegee experiments begin

1941: *Wonder Woman* first appears in comics.

1946: Buckminster Fuller builds his Dymaxion House

1960: Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*

1963: Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech

1865: 13th Amendment

1895: Booker T. Washington's "Atlanta Compromise"

1915: D. W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*

1927: Marcus Garvey deported

1932: Tuskegee experiments begin

1963: Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech

1883: Brooklyn Bridge opens

1915: D. W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*

1930: Empire State Building opens

1946: Buckminster Fuller builds his Dymaxion House

1866: Suffragists form the Equal Rights Association

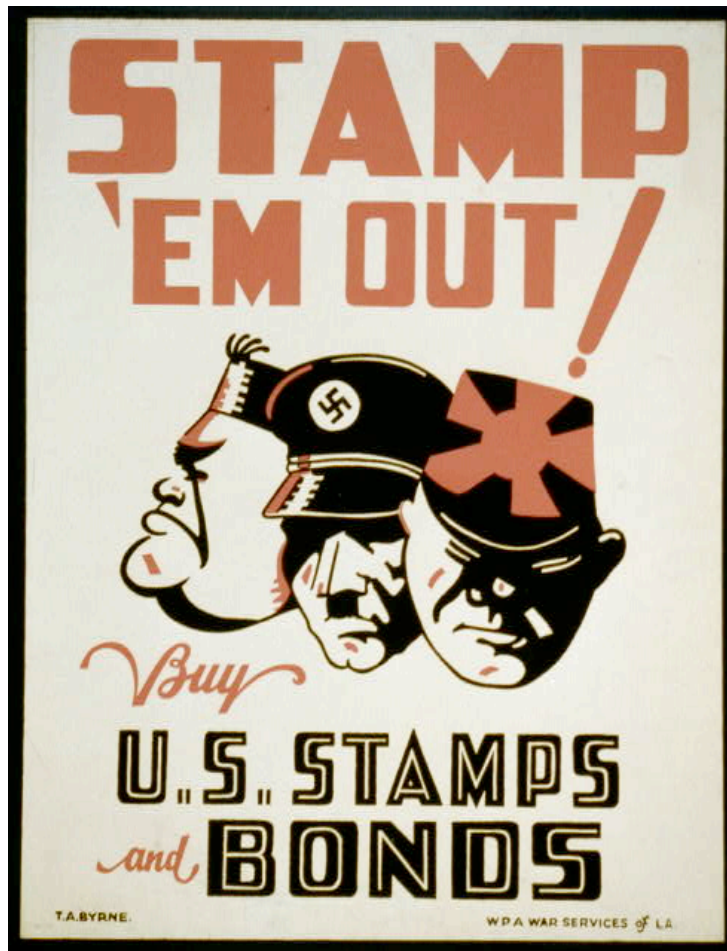
1908: *Muller v. Oregon* on women's right to work

1920: 19th Amendment

1941: *Wonder Woman* first appears in comics.

1960: Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*

A Narrative-Based Question



- 1) The Soviet Union stations missiles in Cuba.
- 2) Woodrow Wilson visits France to sign the Treaty of Versailles.
- 3) The United States drops bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- 4) The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.

A Narrative-Based Question



Photograph taken in 1941 in El Rio, California, at a Farm Security Administration Camp for Mexican Field Workers

- 1) The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the Mexican-American War.
- 2) On “Black Tuesday,” 1929, stock prices plummet.
- 3) FDR is inaugurated president of the United States.
- 4) Hitler’s invasion of Poland starts WWII.

A Narrative-Based Question



*Lithograph entitled
"First Colored
Senators and
Representatives."*

Which period?

- a) 1800-1825
- b) 1830-1850
- c) 1865-1885