

Quotes from:

Constitutional Law and the Civil Rights Movement

A Basic Study of the Moral Arguments, Judicial Decisions and Direct Action Campaign That Influenced The Nationalization of Fundamental Civil Rights in the Post-Modern Era

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"Although each of us comes into the world *de novo*, we are not really new creatures. We arrive into a social slot, born not only to a family but also a religion, community, and, of course a nation and a culture. Sociologists understand the power of social structure and culture to shape not only our path through the world but also our understanding of that path and that world. Yet we often have to expend much energy trying to get students to see the influence on their lives of the social structure and culture they inherit. Not understanding their past renders many Americans incapable of thinking effectively about our present and future."

James W. Loewen
Lies My Teacher Told Me
(Touchstone Books, 2007)

"The institutions and customs that exist in the present and that give rise to present social ills and dislocations did not arise overnight. They have a long history behind them. The attempt to deal with them simply on the basis of what is obvious in the present is bound to result in adoption of superficial measures which in the end will only render existing problems more acute and more difficult to solve. Policies framed simply upon the ground of knowledge of the present cut off from the past is the counterpart of heedless carelessness in individual conduct. The way out of scholastic systems that made the past an end in itself is to make acquaintance with the past a means of understanding the present. Until this problem is worked out, the present clash of educational ideas and practices will continue...."

John Dewey, "Experience and Education"
Kappa Delta Pi Lecture Series (1938)