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Group Project Write-Up

The first topic of the group presentations was, *Did A “New South” Emerge Following Reconstruction*. The introduction of their presentation highlighted the fact of moving from a slavery based economy to a more industrial based society. The yes view is written by Ronald D. Eller, *A Magnificent Field for Capitalism*. It discusses the shift in economy being done by other forces like selling the mountains to create roads being the cause for economic growth. The no view, *Redeemers Reconsidered,* that the South was not new, but tweaked due to the rise in the Jim Crow Era. The group decided that overall, the economy changed, but the culture was still the same, agreeing with the the no side.

The second group focused on, *Were Anarchists Responsible for the Haymarket Riot*. The working class at the time were fed up with poor working conditions, therefore causing labor unions. At this event, a riot broken out and the governor sent officers to regulate the crowd. A bomb was thrown into a crowd and shots were fired and casualties were made. The no side focuses on how there is no true evidence to what truly went on followed by the State Attorney’s advice on the situation. For the yes side, there was violent plots towards the police that ended with a man being convicted and admitting to creating the bombs. The government was using the anarchists as martyrs. Due to this, the group sided with the yes side.

The third topic was was, *Were Late Nineteenth-Century Immigrants “Uprooted”.* Oscar Handlin wrote the yes side, while Mark Wyman wrote the no side. The yes side covered the concept of America being a “melting pot” and opening its doors to everyone. Americanization became popular in turning the Immigrants into what was more American. Many of the Immigrants came over to gain resources and money to send back to their families back at home. Most also moved back to their home country within a year. On a brighter note, due to the influx, the economy boosted to the money brought over. The Immigrants had a hard time moving up in the labor force and assimilated out of will because of their experiences. From this data, the group sided with the no side.

The fifth group focused on *Was Rock and Roll Responsible for Dismantling the Family Values, etc. in the 1950’s and 60’s.* The yes side was written by Jody Pennington and the no side was written by J. Ronald Oakley. For the yes side, with the rise in radios and automobiles, cost went down and appealed to the younger generation. The no side discusses that the ideal of the families being the same overall and with better education and expressive sexuality. Although changing, there is not a significant split in the generations and the younger generations still rely on the parents to buy and get around. Rock’n’Roll went from promoting darker themes to being more conservative and bringing whites and african-americans together. Overall, the group sided with the yes side due to the integration into schools.

The last group’s topic was *Did President Nixon Negotiate a “Peace with Honor”.* Once the french pulled out of the war, the US entered and tried to form a plan to win and create a capitalist Vietnam. On the yes side, it is argued that if there was more troops and aid, there would be a stronger chance of winning the war. Due to the pull out of South Vietnam, Russia gave more aid the the North and took advantage of the lack of US support to crush South Vietnam. The no side claims that the management was 50/50 on both sides. With the rise of the Watergate scandal, the focus on the war shifted more so unto the scandal. The group chose the yes side concluding that taking out the troops was better overall for the US.