

Hello everyone,

Well, we're nearing our final class. Hard to believe – for me, at least.

On Wednesday we'll start where we left off, talking about Progressivism, and possibly depending on time, the Twenties, and the failure of capitalism in the 30s. I'll try to run through this part of American history fairly quickly so that we can have time to wrap up and begin to put it all into perspective.

Here are some questions that I've been thinking about; perhaps we can talk about some – certainly not all! – of them.

1. After six classes and having read Woodard's *American Nations*, has your conception of our history changed at all? Did Woodard's thesis become more compelling (or less) as the book went on?
2. So, how do we feel about all of what we've learned? Is it just utterly depressing? Hopeless? Yes, our history has often been divisive, but can we find kernels of hope in our history?
3. Are divisions necessarily bad? Could it be that they help clarify positions? If we have a competition of ideas, could it be that the ideas are improved, that the best ideas emerge?
4. We long for unity, but we seem to be habituated to division and conflict. Can we change this model?
5. Ok, so let's assume that we'd like to see a more unified nation. How do we go about it? Can you think of some solutions that might be worth trying?

These questions are off the top of my head. What questions do you have? Please to free to come with your own ideas.

I've put two articles on the website. I found them interesting. You might, too.

See you Wednesday.

Scott