

Settler Colonialist Rhetoric in Inaugural Addresses

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Background

This research uses a settler colonialist lens to analyze the rhetoric of the presidential inaugural speeches of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, and James Polk.

Sub-research questions

- Did they seek to disappear or remove indigenous people?
- How much, if at all, did capitalism affect these presidents' rhetoric and intentions?
- Does looking at the events in America at the time of each of these addresses help us understand the rhetoric used by these presidents?
- As well as their connections to settler colonialism?
- Does using a settler colonialism lens to conduct a comparative study of these inaugural addresses help give us a framework for analyzing some presidential rhetoric?
- Settler colonialism is dependent on the removal and cultural and religious conversion, otherwise referred to as the disappearance of indigenous people. Settler colonialism is not tied to any specific time. Therefore it can be and generally is something ongoing (Hixson, W., 2013).

Research Question

Does using a settler colonialist lens to conduct a comparative study of these inaugural addresses help give us a framework for analyzing presidential rhetoric?

Historical Conversation

This research looks to be a bridge between scholarship that has focused on settler colonialism and scholarship that has focused on presidential rhetoric, specifically presidential inaugural addresses.

Map of indigenous tribes



Map of American expansion



Historiography

As well as examining the inaugural addresses, this paper analyzes secondary sources that discuss topics such as American Settler colonialism, white supremacy, capitalism and the Frederick of American presidents.

Bibliography

- Hixson, W. (2013). American Settler Colonialism. Palgrave Macmillan US.
- Veracini, L. (2015). The Settler Colonial Present. Palgrave Macmillan UK.
- Austermühl, Frank. (2014). The Great American Scaffold (Vol. 53). John Benjamins Publishing Company.