

**AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEAS VIEWED FROM
THE STANDPOINT OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY;
THREE LECTURES DELIVERED AT THE ROYAL
INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN IN MAY, 1880;
THE STORY OF A NEW ENGLAND TOWN, AN
ADDRESS DELIVERED AT MIDDLETOWN,
CONNECTICUT, OCTOBER 10, 1900**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649050123

American Political Ideas Viewed from the Standpoint of Universal History; Three Lectures Delivered at the Royal Institution of Great Britain in May, 1880; The Story of a New England Town, an Address Delivered at Middletown, Connecticut, October 10, 1900 by John Fiske & John Spencer Clark

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN FISKE & JOHN SPENCER CLARK

**AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEAS VIEWED FROM
THE STANDPOINT OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY;
THREE LECTURES DELIVERED AT THE ROYAL
INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN IN MAY, 1880;
THE STORY OF A NEW ENGLAND TOWN, AN
ADDRESS DELIVERED AT MIDDLETOWN,
CONNECTICUT, OCTOBER 10, 1900**

Writings of John Fiske

A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SCHOOLS.
With Topical Analysis, Suggestive Questions and Directions
for Teachers, by FRANK A. HILL.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. CON-
SIDERED WITH SOME REFERENCE TO ITS ORIGINS. With
Questions on the Text by FRANK A. HILL, and Bibliograph-
ical Notes.

THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. In Riverside Literature
Series, No. 62.

THE DISCOVERY AND SPANISH CONQUEST OF AMER-
ICA. With Maps.

OLD VIRGINIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS.

THE BEGINNINGS OF NEW ENGLAND or, The Puritan
Theocracy in its Relations to Civil and Religious Liberty.

THE SAME. *Illustrated Edition.* Containing Portraits, Maps,
Facsimiles, Contemporary Views, Prints, and Other Historic
Materials.

THE DUTCH AND QUAKER COLONIES. 2 vols. crown 8vo.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. 2 vols.

THE SAME. *Illustrated Edition.* Containing Portraits, Maps,
Facsimiles, Contemporary Views, Prints, and Other Historic
Materials. 2 vols.

THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF AMERICAN HISTORY. 1783-
1789.

THE SAME. *Illustrated Edition.* Containing Portraits, Maps,
Facsimiles, Contemporary Views, Prints, and Other Historic
Materials.

THE DESTINY OF MAN, viewed in the Light of His Origin.

THE IDEA OF GOD, as affected by Modern Knowledge. A
Sequel to "The Destiny of Man."

THROUGH NATURE TO GOD.

MYTHS AND MYTH-MAKERS. Old Tales and Superstitions
interpreted by Comparative Mythology.

OUTLINES OF COSMIC PHILOSOPHY. Based on the Doc-
trine of Evolution, with Criticisms on the Positive Philosophy.

THE UNSEEN WORLD, and other Essays.

EXCURSIONS OF AN EVOLUTIONIST.

DARWINISM, and Other Essays.

AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEAS.

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

BOSTON, NEW YORK, AND CHICAGO



John Fiske.

AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEAS

VIEWED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF
UNIVERSAL HISTORY

THREE LECTURES DELIVERED AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF GREAT BRITAIN IN MAY, 1880

THE STORY OF A NEW ENGLAND TOWN
AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT MIDDLETOWN
CONNECTICUT, OCTOBER 10, 1900

BY
JOHN FISKE

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
JOHN SPENCER CLARK



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
The Riverside Press Cambridge
1911

UNIV. OF CALIF. LIBRARY
AT LOS ANGELES

JIC21
F 542
1911

TO

EDWARD LIVINGSTON YOUMANS

NOBLEST OF MEN AND DEAREST OF FRIENDS

WHOSE UNSELFISH AND UNTIRING WORK IN EDUCATING THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE IN THE PRINCIPLES OF SOUND PHILOSOPHY
DESERVES THE GRATITUDE OF ALL MEN

I dedicate this Book

F. A. S. E. C. 1926.

210000

CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION. *By John Spencer Clark.*

AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEAS 1

I.

THE TOWN-MEETING.

Differences in outward aspect between a village in England and a village in Massachusetts. Life in a typical New England mountain village. Tenure of land, domestic service, absence of poverty and crime, universality of labour and of culture, freedom of thought, complete democracy. This state of things is to some extent passing away. Remarkable characteristics of the Puritan settlers of New England, and extent to which their characters and aims have influenced American history. Town governments in New England. Different meanings of the word "city" in England and America. Importance of local self-government in the political life of the United States. Origin of the town-meeting. Mr. Freeman on the cantonal assemblies of Switzerland. The old Teutonic "mark," or dwelling-place of a clan. Political union originally based, not on territorial contiguity, but on blood-relationship. Divisions of the mark. Origin of the village Common. The *mark-note*. Village communities in Russia and Hindustan. Difference between the despotism of Russia and that of France under the Old Régime. Elements of sound political life fostered by the Russian village. Traces of the mark

in England. Feudalization of Europe, and partial metamorphosis of the mark or township into the manor. Parallel transformation of the township, in some of its features, into the parish. The court leet and the vestry-meeting. The New England town-meeting a revival of the ancient mark-mote. Vicissitudes of local self-government in the various portions of the Aryan world illustrated in the contrasted cases of France and England. Significant contrast between the aristocracy of England and that of the Continent. Difference between the Teutonic conquests of Gaul and of Britain. Growth of centralization in France. Why the English have always been more successful than the French in founding colonies. Struggle between France and England for the possession of North America, and prodigious significance of the victory of England. — pp. 9-43.

II.

THE FEDERAL UNION.

Wonderful greatness of ancient Athens. Causes of the political failure of Greek civilization. Early stages of political aggregation, — the *hundred*, the *φασαρία*, the *curia*; the *shire*, the *deme*, and the *pagus*. Aggregation of clans into tribes. Differences in the mode of aggregation in Greece and Rome on the one hand, and in Teutonic countries on the other. The Ancient City. Origin of cities in Hindustan, Germany, England, and the United States. Religious character of the ancient city. Burghership not granted to strangers. Consequences of the political difference between the Greco-Roman city and the Teutonic shire. The *folk-mote*, or primary assembly, and the *witenaagemote*, or assembly of notables. Origin of representative government in the Teutonic shire. Representation unknown to the Greeks and Romans. The ancient city as a school for political training. Intensity of the jealousies