

The USA

Osher course, February 2024

J. N. Hooker



Yosemite National Park



Yellowstone National Park



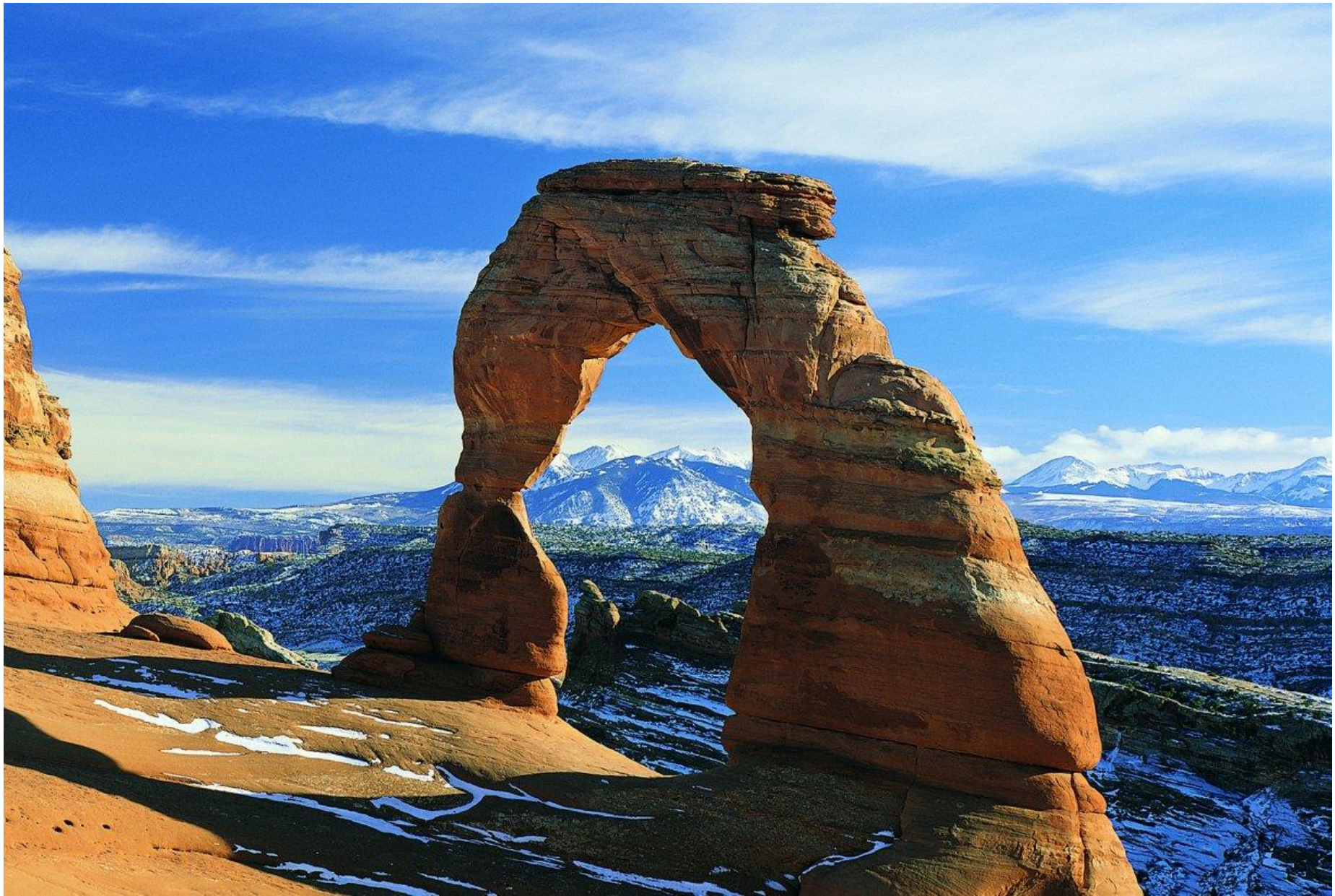
Rocky Mountain National Park



Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Grand Teton National Park



Arches National Park



Everglades National Park



Glacier National Park



Grand Canyon National Park

<i>Relationship-based</i>	<i>Rule-based</i>
Polychronic	Monochronic
High power distance	Low power distance
Shame based	Guilt based
High context	Low context
Collectivist	Individualist
Masculine	Feminine
Uncertainty avoiding	Uncertainty tolerant
Dionysian	Apollonian

Frontiers and Immigrants

- The USA has been shaped by two overarching conditions:
 - The frontier
 - Inculcated individualism, rugged independence, focus on the future
 - “Multiculturalism”
 - A nation of immigrants.
 - System designed to assimilate immigrants
 - But resistance from many who arrived earlier.

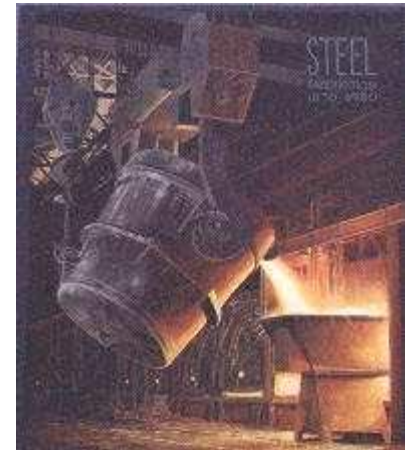
A Multiethnic Society

- Highly diverse
 - U.S. residents from every country in the world (2020 census).



Models for Living Together

- Melting pot?
 - Monocultural: Everyone assimilates to dominant northern European culture.
- Salad bowl?
 - Multicultural: Different subcultures exist side by side.



The Solution

- Modified melting pot.
 - But not cheese fondue.
 - More like Mulligan stew.



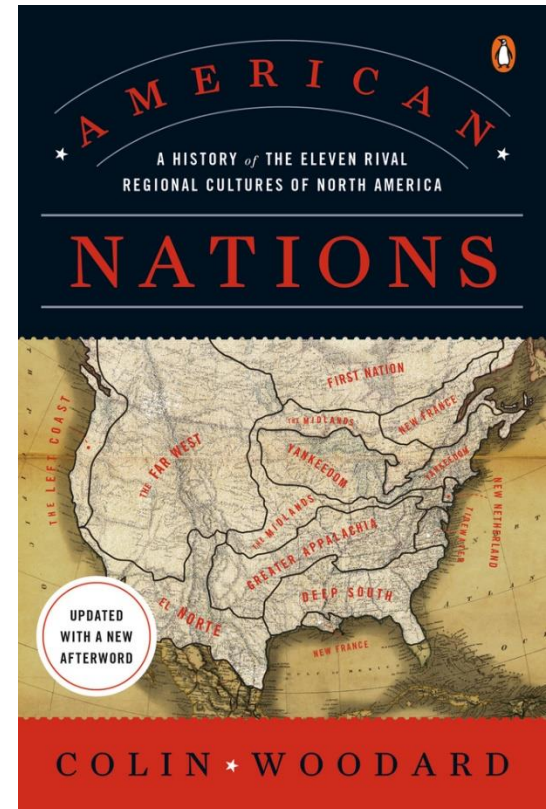
Dominant Culture

- Strongly rule-based
 - **Social cohesion** based on a **common rulebook.**
 - ...not a common ethnic background.
 - Rules are the “broth” that holds the stew together.
 - Ethnic groups provide the “flavors” of the other ingredient



Subcultures

- Major subcultures are **strongly regional**
 - Immigrants have generally adapted to the culture of regions in which they settled.
 - Most regional subcultures are **no longer ethnic groups**
 - To understand U.S. regional subcultures, **read this book**



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

This subculture is also found in the “Deep South,” Texas, Wyoming, and eastern Alaska

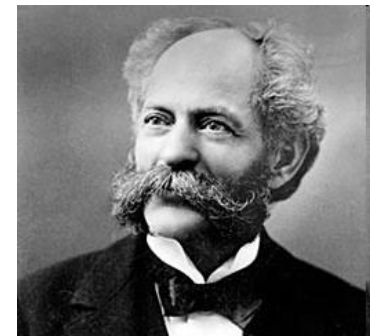
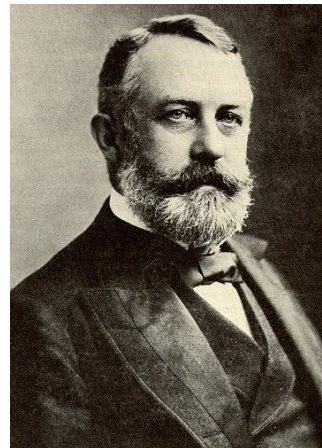


Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- Originally “Scots-Irish” (Ulster Scots)
 - Individualistic, competitive, masculine, evangelical

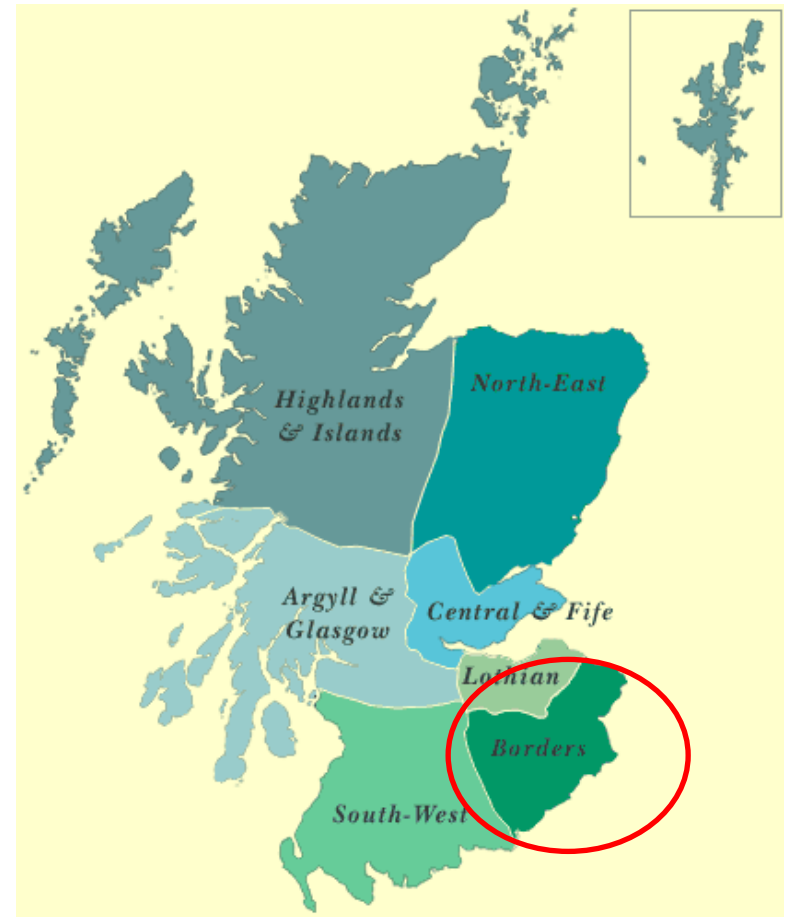
**Important in early
development of
Pittsburgh**

...along with Germans, e.g.
Henry Clay Frick
Henry J. Heinz



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- Scots-Irish immigrants had influence far beyond their numbers.
 - Originally “border Scots.”
 - Centuries of warfare with England.
 - Pittsburgh “yinz” dialect is partially based on “lowland Scots” language



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- Fiercely independent, but loyal to the clan in times of war.
 - Bruce, Douglas, Ferguson, Kerr, MacDonald, MacGregory, Montgomery, Scott, etc.
 - Clan members were generally not blood relatives.
 - Compare with sports rivalries
 - Clan was ruled by a Laird (warlord).



“Carnegie Clan tartan”
(not really)

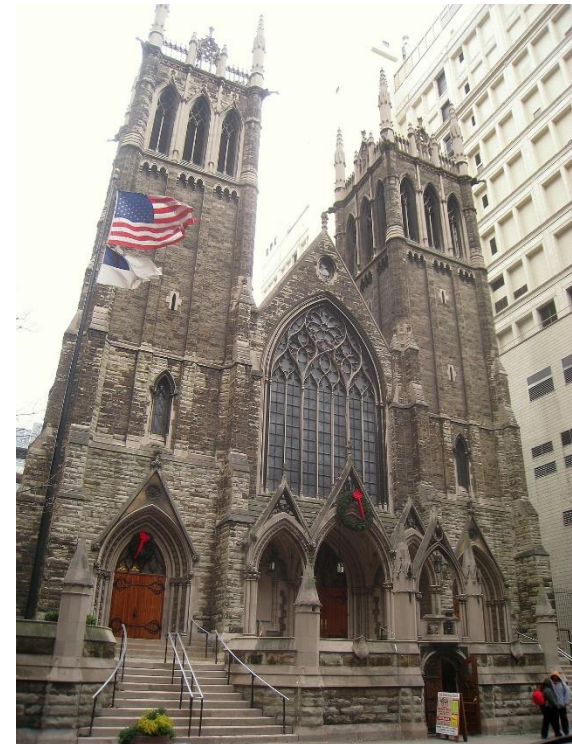
Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- Frugal, quasi-nomadic lifestyle.
 - Relocated frequently to avoid attack.
 - Lived in semi-permanent *cabines*.
 - These later became the log cabins of the American frontier.
 - Still later, mobile homes & RVs of today.



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- **Staunchly Presbyterian**
 - Attracted to Calvinist values and decentralized government of Presbyterian church.
 - Reflected in conservative Protestant movements of the U.S. today.
 - Ironically, the Presbyterian church is now liberal.
 - Conservative Southern Baptist churches and evangelical sects now reflect the Scots-Irish tradition.



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- Migrated to Ulster (Northern Ireland).
 - Beginning with the Ulster Plantation, established in 1609 by King James of England.
 - Became known as “Ulster Scots.”
 - Later called “Scots-Irish” in the U.S.



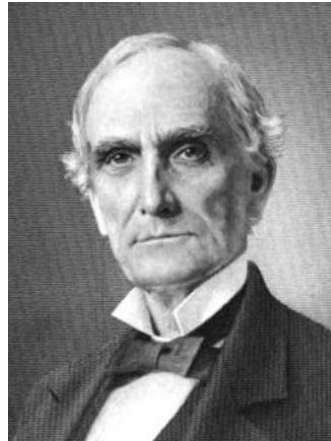
Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- Emigrated to the North American colonies.
 - Beginning about 1717.
 - Initially settled in the Quaker colony of Pennsylvania, which tolerated their Presbyterian faith.
 - Rejected by many colonies as “uncivilized.”
 - Squatted on native lands.
 - “Paxton boys” committed atrocities.



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

Thomas Mellon
Founder, Mellon Bank



Andrew Mellon
*Founder, ALCOA &
Mellon Institute*
U.S. Treasury Secretary*



**with co-founder
Richard B. Mellon*



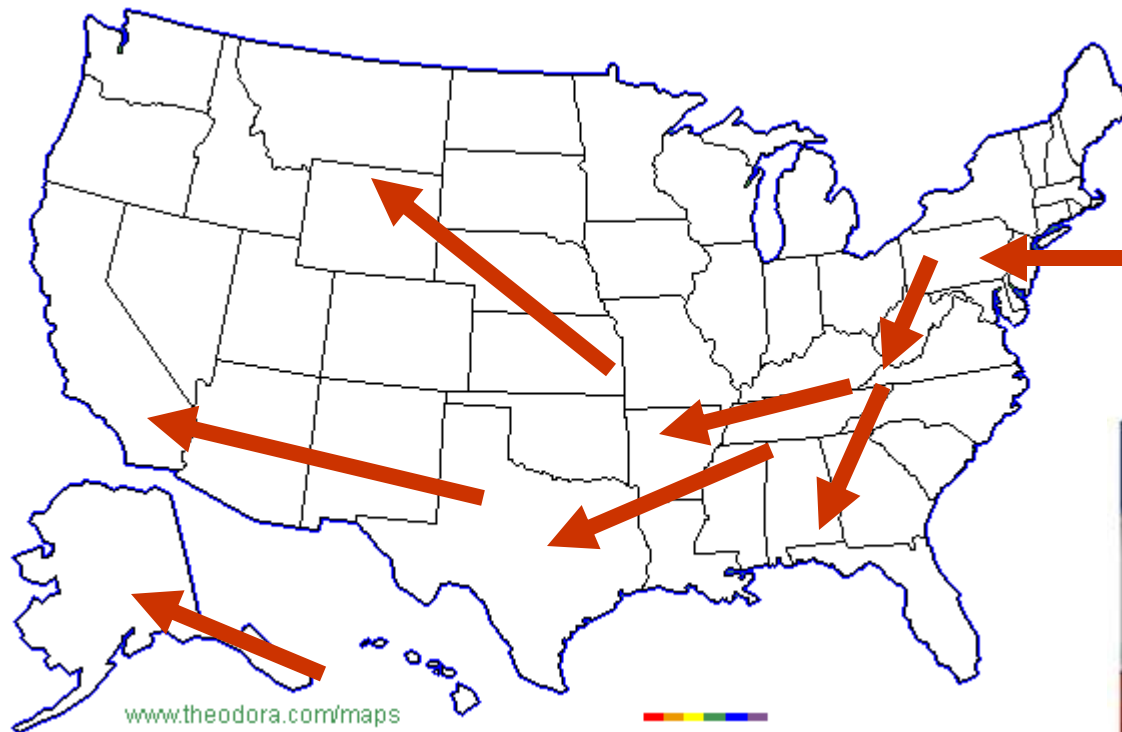
William Larimer Mellon, *founder of Tepper School of Business*



Ancestral home of Mellon family
County Tyrone, Northern Ireland

Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- On the southern frontier of European settlement.



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- Scots-Irish culture was well adapted to frontier life.
 - Fiercely independent, freedom-loving, self-sufficient.
 - Accustomed to relocation.
 - Masculine, warlike culture.
 - Fought British, native people.
 - Now a **subculture**, not an **ethnic group**

David
Crockett



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

- Survives in many forms.
 - Geographically
 - Hill culture of Appalachians, Arkansas (e.g., Bill Clinton).
 - White Southern subculture.
 - Rural areas, small towns (dislike of cities).
 - Cultural symbols
 - Pickup truck.
 - Hunting and fishing.
 - Guns.
 - Country music

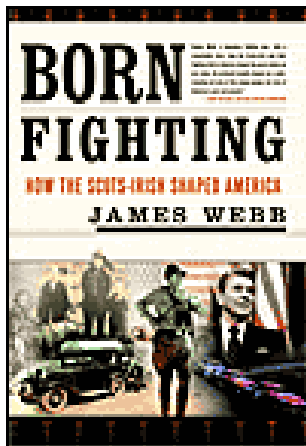


Jason Aldean
at Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

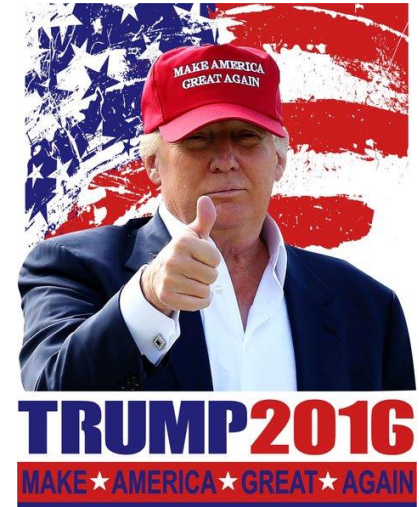
Focus on “Greater Appalachia”

– Politically

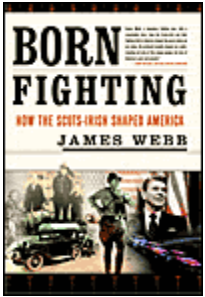
- Populist movements, swing voters.
- Conservative social and religious values.
- Pro-military, volunteers for armed forces.
- Donald Trump supporters.



James Webb, former Virginia Senator and Secretary of the Navy, illustrates tendency to switch sides politically. He has Scots-Irish heritage and wrote one of the few existing books on Scots-Irish culture.



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”



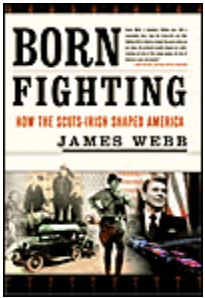
In his book, Webb asked his father
(living in the mountains of western Virginia):

“What is your most important
accomplishment in life”

His father’s answer?



Focus on “Greater Appalachia”



In his book, Webb asked his father
(living in the mountains of western Virginia):

“What is your most important
accomplishment in life”

His father’s answer?

“I ain’t never kissed nobody’s ass.”



Further Reading on U.S. Culture

