**AMERICAN EMPIRE:**

**Grand Republic to Corporate State**

**Part I**

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**Course Description:**  Part I, American Empire: Grand Republic to Corporate State, will trace the evolution of the United States, from its colonial roots to that of the lofty status of global power. From the American Revolution to World War I, this captivating transformation will be captured in a variety of ways: the quest for land prior to, and following, the Revolution, up to the Spanish-American War in 1898, where Manifest Destiny, the real American pastime, began as an agenda of Continental expansion to become a program for globalism.

Other facets of the burgeoning corporate state will be addressed: The demise of the Citizen-Soldier concept; the Rise of Big Business; control of the nation’s money; the Confederacy as a revolution; the concept of American government, Republic? Democracy? The burgeoning industrialization of the Grand Republic versus the Working Class. These are among the issues that will be addressed, from Revolution to Global Power.

**Course Syllabus:**

**Week 1: Article of Faith**

The Declaration of Independence, what it is, and in particular, how it is the poster child expression of American Exceptionalism. In addition, how this document was an attempt to put some sort of central control on a fragmented revolt which had actually started as a civil war between Patriots versus Loyalists and Tories.

**Week 2: America: A Democracy? A Republic?**

Many Americans are under the mistaken impression that this nation was founded as a Democracy . . . By referencing such standouts in American contributions to political literature, the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, the *Federalist*, the Debates on the Constitution and the writings of the Founding Fathers, the idea becomes crystal clear that this nation was called a Republic for a reason.

**Week 3: The Electoral College**

The famed American system of Checks and Balance includes one of most confusing aspects of American representative government, the Electors or as it is popularly known as, the Electoral College. This session will seek to clarify the misunderstandings and misconceptions held by many Americans of a building block their election process.

**Week 4: The Confederacy as a Revolution**

The abomination of Slavery has been the poster child expression of understanding with regards to the Civil War; certainly a shortsighted assessment despite the issue’s gut-wrenching significance. The factors of State’s Rights, the financial dominance of Northern Banks, the overweening industrial superiority of the North coalesce to create a friction of discord, doubt and eventually succession by the states below the Mason-Dixon Line. Yet by 1862, the belief in a system of State’s Rights will succumb the war-related measure of centralized control that will offer a glimpse into the future of the Grand Republic.

**Week 5: The Rise of Big Business**

Follows the evolution of Big Business from the 19th century to the end of World War I. Time will be spent on the Railroads; followed by the Telegraph companies. Wall Street finance will be explored as will Labor-Worker relations, as the American economy grows in sophistication and power by 1914. Included, too will be the rudiments of the Military-Industrial Complex.

**Week 6: Power of the Purse**

Starting with the Currency Act of 1764 as a generator for revolution, the importance of control of money will be the objective. How Alexander Hamilton alleviated colonial debt just after the Revolution. Concerns about the power of a Central bank as evidenced by President Andrew Jackson dissolving the bank of the United States. Session will chart the issue of the nation’s money situation out to the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.

**Week 7: Well Regulated Militia**

Follows the growth of American military power. From the Citizen-Soldier concept of the Militia Act of 1792, through the inexorable progression which saw America cast aside one of the paramount concerns of some of the Founding Fathers: “That a large standing army was a threat to the viability of the Republic.”

**Week 8: Decisive Day: April 6, 1917**

Offers a panoramic view America’s transformation to an empire, starting with the Louisiana Purchase to the Declaration of War issued by Congress on April 6, 1917. Explains the rise of America from a continental to a global power, showcasing Manifest Destiny as an exercise in imperialism which helped to chart America’s stupendous growth. For on April 6, 1917--a day of greater significance than December 7, 1941 or September 11, 2001—is one of the most decisive days in not only American history, but in European and World history as well.