

## Part One, American Government and U.S. Constitution

### Lesson 22: *Importance of an Educated Electorate*

(Principle 23)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part II: The Founders' Basic Principles – 28 Great Ideas that Changed the World

Lesson 22 Time: 36:15 [for Sunday, August 10, 2014]

The 5000 Year Leap: 23<sup>rd</sup> Principle, Reading Assignment: (pages 249-256);

## Importance of an Educated Electorate

Lesson objectives: As a result of this lesson, the student should be able to discuss the following questions/topics:

1. WHAT UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE COMPELLED THE FOUNDERS TO ADVOCATE UNIVERSAL EDUCATION? (PAGE 249)

Educating the Whole People [why? ignorant people easily controlled by tyrannicals]

- no nation ever attempted
- necessary ingredient for freedom

2. HOW WAS MASSACHUSETTS ORGANIZED TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL EDUCATION? WHAT YEAR WAS THIS SYSTEM ESTABLISHED? (250)

Beginning of Public Education

- Massachusetts - 1647
  - community of 50 families = grammar school [5 basics]
    - reading – writing – ciphering [mathematics] – history – Bible Study[!]
  - community of 100 families = secondary school
    - advanced studies – prepare for Harvard [college]
- Illegal not to have a school! (quote)

3. HOW DID JOHN ADAMS DESCRIBE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEW ENGLAND? (251)

School Boards

- local
- highly conscientious people
  - 3 year term
  - visit all schools once a month
  - make a report
  - decide on textbooks
  - recruit and certify teachers

4. DESCRIBE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS IN NEW ENGLAND DURING THE FOUNDING ERA. (251)

Three Guides to a Proper Education System

- 1 ● locally supported    2 ● parent directed    3 ● professionally assisted

5. COMPARE THE LITERACY RATES OF EUROPE AND AMERICA AT THAT TIME. (251)

European Literacy

- illiteracy common in most countries
- France – only 500,000 out of 24 million could read and write [2% only!]

American Literacy

- very little formal education
- basics taught – reading, writing, arithmetic
- mostly Self-learning in colonies
- Franklin, Washington

6. HOW DID ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE DESCRIBE THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN 1831? (252)

Alexis de Toqueville

- American most enlightened in world (quote)
- not a single district in ignorance

7. HOW DID TOCQUEVILLE CHARACTERIZE THE AMERICAN PIONEER? (252-53)

- wilderness people educated (quote) [most in rustic log houses kept primitive]
  - dress and speaks well
  - brings Bible, axe, newspapers
  - exceeds any place in France

8. ACCORDING TO TOCQUEVILLE, HOW WELL ACQUAINTED WERE AMERICANS WITH THEIR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT? (253-54)

- All Americans - even children know answers [Catechism of Constitution, 1828]

9. WHY WERE EVEN THE YOUNG CHILDREN KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THEIR GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME? (254)

Americans Speak with Great Eloquence

- Daniel Webster - 1843
  - Americans speak better English than in England

10. HOW WELL DID THESE EARLY AMERICANS KNOW THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE? TO WHAT DID THEY ATTRIBUTE THIS KNOWLEDGE? (255)

- Attributes language to the influence of Bible
- better reading
- right views on civil liberty (quote)

11. WHAT DID KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE DO FOR AMERICANS OF THAT ERA? (255-56)

- What happens to a nation when Bible reading is prohibited?

5 charts following 1960 for USA: See DVD for actual. Others printed for lesson.

1) Birth Rates of Unmarried Girls. 2) Violent crimes chart 3)STD Sexually Transmitted diseases 4) SAT scores 5) Family Stability – Single Parent Households