

## The Soul of Which America?

**American Nations A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North American**, Colin Woodard, 2011. Penguin Books.

**Yankeedom** “put great emphasis on education, local political control, and the pursuit of the ‘greater good’ of the community even it required individual self-denial. Yankees have the greatest faith in the potential of government to improve people’s lives, ...a vital bulwark against the schemes of grasping aristocrats, corporations or outside powers.”

**Tidewater**, “a fundamentally conservative region with a high value placed on respect for authority and tradition and very little on equality or public participation in politics ...founded by the younger sons of southern English gentry, who aimed to reproduce the semi-feudal manorial society of the English countryside, where economic, political and social affairs were run by and for landed aristocrats. “

**Great Appalachia**, “wave upon wave of rough bellicose settler from the war-ravaged borderlands of Northern Ireland, northern England and the Scottish lowlands ... a culture formed in constant state of war and upheaval, fostering a warrior ethic and a deep commitment to individual liberty and personal sovereignty. “

**The Midlands** founded by English Quakers who welcomed people of many nations.... Pluralistic and organized around the middle class, ...where ethnic and ideological purity have never been a priority, government has been seen as an unwelcome intrusion. The Midlanders believe society should be organized to benefit ordinary people, but they are extremely skeptical of town-down governmental intervention, as many of their ancestor fled from European tyrannies.

**New Netherland** from the 17th Century Dutch colony that became greater New York City. “From the start a global commercial trading society; multi-ethnic, multi-religious, speculative, materialistic, mercantile, and free trading, a raucous, not entirely democratic city-state where no one ethnic or religious group has ever been truly in charge `... a profound tolerance of diversity and an unflinching commitment to the freedom of inquiry... these ideal have been passed down to us the Bill of Rights”

**The Deep South** “founded by Barbados slave lords as a West-Indies style slave society, (chattel slavery\*) a system so cruel and despotic that it shocked even its seventeenth-century English contemporaries... the region has been the bastion of white supremacy, aristocratic privilege and ...where democracy was a privilege of the few and enslavement the natural lot of the many. The Deep South spread apartheid and authoritarianism across the Southern lowlands, eventually encompassing most of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana, western Tennessee and the southeastern part of North Carolina, Arkansas and Texas. “

**The Left Coast**. “The majority of the Left Coast’s early colonists were Yankees who arrived by sea in the hopes of founding a second New England. This left a stamp of Utopian idealism that put them on a collision course with it neighbors in deferential El Norte and the libertarian Far West.

(Woodard also includes **El Norte, The Far West, New France**)

\*Chattel Slavery see slaves as property, and as animals. The Slave Oligarchy saw the Africans brought here as a different group of humans, a different species, not from the same ancestors, as needing to be enslaved to be controlled. They existed to serve.