



HANDS ON HISTORY

THE CENTRAL OHIO HISTORY PROJECT

Hands on History Seminar
December 2, 2006
ESC of Franklin County

Westward Expansion & the Northwest Ordinance

Dr. Andrew Cayton
Distinguished Professor of History, Miami University

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 established the colonial policy of the United States, more specifically the procedures by which an area might be admitted to the Union on an equal basis with the original thirteen states.

We'll look at the origins of this policy in the eighteenth-century context as well as the ways in which it was worked out in the first state admitted under the ordinance, Ohio. The history of Ohio from territory to state models the history of subsequent areas that became American states so our discussion will really be about the origins of an American empire.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Teachers will be able to explain the process by which the United States added new states.
2. Participants will be able to describe the role of American Indians in the formation of American states.
3. Teachers will understand why the Ohio constitution provided for a weak governor and elected judges



LEAD FACULTY BIO

Andrew Cayton, Distinguished Professor of History at Miami University, is the author of several books on the history of Ohio and the Midwest, including *Ohio: The History of a People* (2002); *The Frontier Republic: Ideology and Politics in the Ohio Country, 1780-1825* (1986); and *Frontier Indiana* (1996). Cayton is the recipient of several teaching awards, including the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Ohio Academy of History.

His most recent publications include the *Dominion of War: Empire and Liberty in North America, 1500-2000* (2005; written with Fred Anderson) and the *American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia* (2006; coedited with Richard Sisson and Christian Zacher).

READING ASSIGNMENT

Peter S. Onuf, *Statehood and Union: A History of the Northwest Ordinance* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987), pp. 1-87

Andrew Cayton, *Ohio: The History of a People* (Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2002), pp. 1-43.

REFLECTIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT

The following questions are meant to help **HANDS ON HISTORY** participants prepare for the seminar content. The questions will help you to begin thinking about the primary themes detailed in the readings and that will be discussed in the seminar.

Please bring a typed copy of your response to the questions to the December 2 seminar. Limit your response to two double-spaced pages using 1 inch margins and 12 point font.

1. How did the Northwest Ordinance reflect the basic values of the new American republic?
2. Is Ohio anything more than a legal entity arbitrarily created by politicians?
3. How was the American empire different from other empires?