

What stories make wilderness? And the Nation?
And "Americans"?

The Renegant: "overcoming" the wilderness (inhospitable)
racialized as well - Indians belong in wilderness
wilderness is "far away" from civilization

Aldo Leopold - protect land because it offers recreation
- In the time of a movement for American identity
and culture
- culture connected to massive amt. of
"empty" land.
- killing the wilderness kills identity.

Settler colonialism logic: settlers of "empty" land become
indigenous to it. The land needs to be empty.

Thoreau: "what's important is to keep the wilderness open."
· opposes push for private plots of land → farmers
(Homestead Act)
· wilderness is roadless - freedom
· "Eastward, I go only by fire, but westward, I
go free."
· progress of America is to go west. (it's new)

Popular stories are about where culture comes from
There is a distinct difference between how Standing
Bear and Thoreau describe the wilderness.

· Standing Bear: wilderness is what we were.
appealing / writing for white people
writing in the past tense
· learning to live with nature vs. innate desire
to conquer nature

Settler colonialism relies on a set of stories:

- manifest destiny - coined by John O'Sullivan, 1845
- idea that America was blessed by God to occupy all of the land it has.
- wilderness is referenced as paradise
- story of Columbus

Jamaica Kincaid:

- Questioning History (what does it mean to me?)
- What is my "name"?