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THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LITERATURE READER IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCENERY

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DEDICATIONS

To my family, my mother, and father; Sisters and brothers who always urge me to do better; and to my tolerant husband.

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Abstract

Literature is the pillar of any culture, nations are known by their literary heritage and their devotion to reading and writing. The American context shows that literature is an intellectual matter which is not produced to be adapted only in education or just reading for leisure; therefore, literature is conceived as a strong element in building the New American Nation. As a matter of fact, literature helps the Americans shape their identity and knowing their history; moreover it gives them hope for a beautiful future. American writers over centuries try to write about burning political issues, and they did so in different ways, either by producing fictitious works of art where they project reality on imaginative stories, or criticize overly the wrong policy. In addition to that, literature could and to some extent influence the US presidents' reasoning, and this is due to their previous reading of books. US presidents like any other humans are influenced by what they read, the only difference between men of power and laymen is that the former have the power of taking strategic and domineering decisions that could be good for their state, or could turn back with a harmful consequences. This research study sheds light on the different impacts of literature on the American political hemisphere precisely on the American Presidents and men of states. The findings reveal that the American Presidents from George Washington to Barak Obama have been to some extent influenced by their readings. Besides that, the research examines the different impacts of Presidents' reading on their political decisions, and has come to a result that the decisions of different Presidents have tremendously been influenced by literature; this impact of literature over American policy varies from beneficial to harmful for the policy of the United States.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABC: American Broadcasting Company

CDs: CD-ROM (Compact Disc, read-only-memory)

SDI: Strategic Defense Initiative

USS: United States Ship

USA: United States of America

WPM: word per minutes

WMD: Weapon of Mass Distraction

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General Introduction

The world had seen through different eras the impact of literature over the political sphere and vice versa. This does not mean that they work hand in hand or they are in a continuous compatibility; their relation is rather influential. It is quite obvious that the US political community is influenced through different sides, socially, economically, historically, and literary. Literature essentially represents a key factor in the evolution of politics in the United States. There is a strong liaison between what is called written literature and what happens in the spirit of the age.

In speaking of literature it is worth referring to reading which plays a pivotal role over the American politics, Presidents of the United States seem to be among the most world's heavy literature readers, they gave too much importance to Reading as a means of self instruction, they knew its strength in building strong personalities and this is why they insist on the importance of Reading in their system of education. In the same line of thought, journalism affects the policy of the United States in a very direct manner, American presidents are aware of the impact of literary elites on the public, so they are very careful in dealing with journalism and the media in general. The power of the pen lids many presidents change their perspectives toward different issues. Moreover, novels are also an important factor in affecting policy in the United States, the gift of writing and the power of persuading the public in different issues has given the novel a strong power to change situations and tipped the scales in the country.

American presidents are not shown as heavy readers only, but also the speediest ones, to illustrate well, George Washington reads even when riding his horse, John F. Kennedy has developed his ability of reading from 300 words per minutes

(WPM) through a study of speed reading techniques to 1,200 WPM, and recommended this for his staff; President John Adams had spent an estate in books.

The love of reading was in their blood and that explains their success in the white house. From the book *What Jefferson Read and, Ike Watched and Obama Tweeted* written by Tevi Troy, a detailed study was made to show how reading is too important for presidents, and how previous reading could affect their policy.

Moreover, some great literary works could touch the personality of some presidents either when they are in their office or when they were still children; this impact is a strong factor in influencing their personality. Furthermore, novels could be a model to follow as in the case of George W.Bush when he reincarnated the fictional character Captain Ahab in *Moby Dick*. The similarities between Bush and Ahab are flagrant. Bush, intentionally or unintentionally had followed the steps of Captain Ahab in his purchase of the white whale in his pursuit of terrorism.

In consideration to the aforementioned conception, a general research question is formulated: How could Literature Depict the Us Political Scenery?

And to make the research field reliable, some relevant questions are formulated as follow:

- To what extent is literature important in the American society?
- How presidents of the United States are affected by literary works?
- Could literature be the direct source of US president's political decisions?

The previous questions need some axiomatic assumptions that help us delve into the cultural and political American society:

- Through centuries reading had been important for the development of nations.
- Some books may have great impact on the American president's decisions.

The American Studies promote us with an open access to study the different variables that affect the American policy; this research narrows the study to the effect of Literature and the Reading on the American policy and more precisely on the American presidents.

The research contains three chapters, the first is an overview on the cultural life of the American society and the importance of reading in building strong personalities. It also depicts the importance of reading as a powerful weapon that threatens the crown of policy in the United States. The American society is proud of being so intellectual, and their government encourages its children to read. To deepen more, and as a data collection the research has stressed the cultural life of American Presidents, and how reading books affects their careers. The study is to describe the aspect of Reading in the life of some presidents. Almost, all presidents have a specific literary side, but the research has chosen the best known Presidents. The description leads to the findings that reading affects directly their political strategies, this result has helped us to establish a comparison in the third chapter between George W. Bush and Captain Ahab, the famous character in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. The comparison is a psycho analysis of the behavior of both Ahab and the President George W. Bush to show the strong influence of *Moby Dick* on Bush career. The similarities between Bush and Captain Ahab are too flagrant that call critics and politicians to compare both personalities. The chapter sheds light on the different circumstances that led Melville wrote the book and the circumstances that urge Captain Ahab pursuit the white whale, and compare them with the circumstances that led Bush pursuit Terrorism and launch a dramatic war on Iraq.

1.1. Introduction

Literature in the United States plays a pivotal role in the life of people as well as presidents, the American colonies saw in literature their way to acquire the land and build a strong identity. Reading books at that time was not an easy matter, books were too expensive and the ordinary people could not afford them, only wealthy men had an access to books.

Nowadays, and with the overwhelming technology books became closer to people, Literature and reading in general represents the red carpet for the US candidates to the presidency, the most they are well read the closer the White House is to them. However, the media including newspapers and broadcasting channels have always shed light on the reading habits of Presidents; the media in the United States has drawn an impressive image of the heavy reader Presidents

This chapter examines the literary situation in the United States, the reading education and its impact on the American society, how can a book change a nation?

Journalism is also an important factor in the American intellectual arena, it is the main source of reading in the United States; what its purpose is and what its different effects are on the American political hemisphere?

1.2. The Spirit of American Literature

The majority of world's literatures were written slowly and through centuries, no literature in the world had been forced to be written; any literature came as a result of oral traditions that tell stories and news about the past. And it has no need to hurry or to be written forcedly except in some cases like the endanger languages where linguists, sociologist, and men of letters will gather the endanger heritage and protect it from being damaged.

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For the American literature the case is different, it was written and born under specific circumstances; it had grown and flourished for the sake of existence of a new born world.

From the first day the Puritans had put their feet on the American ground, they started writing for the new world, sometimes described the agonies they faced in this new continent, other times praised the beauty of that new world in order to seduce and convince other people to immigrate to the promised land.

After the new nation had established itself through fire and pen, literature saw a kind of stagnancy, it did not mean that there was no literary production but there were writings of a little importance till the beginning of Romanticism with Washington Irving, James Fennimore Cooper, and others.

Readers began to taste the savor of Literature from inside America and Europe too, which eventually encouraged writers producing more good and important works, some of these works are masterpieces like Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, Nathaniel Hawthorn's *The Scarlet Letter*, without forgetting the most prominent figure of Romanticism Edgar Allan Poe who developed the short story and rediscovered and rebirth the detective story in the United States.

These writers and others of course did not write for the sake of writing, each writer had his own style, but all writers shared generally the same objectives which focused on glorifying America and its Founding Fathers, or criticizing or describing the American society.

The great desire to escape the European traditions led the American writer portrayed the American society as a different and unique among nations; new ethics came to the top, liberty, beauty, wealth, and the ethic of working like machines shaped what is known as The American Dream, these ethics were and still are the

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heart of the majority of literary works. Henry David Thoreau wrote in this context that:

I have learned this, at least, from my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams and endeavors to live the life he has imagined, he will meet success unexpected in common hours (323).

The American literature had always been influenced by different circumstances and factors, immigration, slavery, and the domination of the whites over the literary world had taken an important part from the American literature. The whites tried to dominate America and exclude all other races even the native inhabitants of the continents; they drew an image for the United States of just whites from European descendents. Emory Elliot has clearly explained the idea in her article “The Emergence of the Literatures in the United States”:

Why then was there, for nearly 100 years, a widespread agreement that there was little produced in the arts and letters in America worthy of attention before the American Renaissance of the 1850s? The deeper, unacknowledged reason for such erasure was the compelling desire in the United States between the 1880s and the 1960s to imagine the country to be a homogenous nation of white northern Europeans and their descendants. To acknowledge a literary history of two centuries of abundant texts written in America in Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, and Dutch, would be to recognize a multicultural national origin and heritage that many in the United States in the twentieth century sought to silence and erase(Lauter 10).

Moreover, the white male writers in the United States were the most welcomed before 1960's including one famous female figure Emily Dickinson.

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It was after 1960's that universities began receiving a large number of students from different genders and races. The United States now is a multiracial country, a salad bowl country where all people share equal opportunities, before 1960 the American Literature survey courses generally started with Ralph Waldo Emerson, but now everything has been changed and courses practically began with the early myth and narratives of Native Americans; African American Literature is also a part of the National American curriculum like Zora Neal Hurston and Toni Morrison.

The American Literature has come to a conclusion that every word written on the American ground is American and has to be studied as part of it, this may also include minor groups like gay's and lesbian's, it excludes no one.

The beauty and richness and even the uniqueness of the American Literature lay in its multilingual heritage.

1.3. The Concept of Great Literature

What makes great literature great? A question that challenges the literary critics who try hard to determine a clear and definite definition of great literature.

Every intellect can agree on Shakespeare's plays to be great literature which are read over years. The United States had also given birth to the great world's writers naming: Washington Irving, Henry wadsworth Longfellow, Edgar Allan Poe, James Fennimore Cooper, Herman Melville, William Faulkner, Paul Auster, Toni Morrison, Arthur Miller, and other writers who had produced and still write great and distinctive literature.

Great literature for instance, is a literature that depicts real life; no one disagrees of *Great Gatsby* to be great literature because it is not just a story that one can read and forget but it is rather a depiction of life in the jazz age and the roaring

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twenties. If a reader wants to understand that period from the American history, he is advised to read the fore-mentioned novel, the term Great Literature is vast and unlimited, but the most appropriate definition is that of Scott Fitzgerald to his editor when he was on the verge of writing his masterpiece “Great Gatsby”: **“I want to write something new and extraordinary and beautiful and simple and intricately patterned”** (Brucoli and S. Baughman 17).

Skilled writers always carry something new in their writings, sometimes in the message they want to convey, and sometimes in the way of writing the story, and most of time in the way they touch the emotions and feelings of the readership. Great literature makes the reader feel the story, it lasts longer and sometimes forever, the “Odyssey” of Homer is still read and taught in schools and universities, “Beowulf” is one of the oldest surviving long poems in English Literature and still read by people.

Sometimes great works are not considered so until the death of their writers or a long time after the release of the book, Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick* was not recognized as great literature until 30 years after his death, some critics see that *Moby Dick* is a novel not of its time, the novel was not admired once published but nowadays the book is a matter of controversy among literary critics and scholars.

Truth is an important criterion in a literary work, it has to affect the reader by its strong and effective reflection of real life, and it has to seem real even if the story originates the writer’s imagination.

People’s devotion to read stories and tales about life helps writers to produce more literature and improve their style to be particular and distinctive. The reader has a great role in the prospering and the flourishing of literature.

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Originality is also important in writing great literature, love, nature, betrayal, psyche, adventures and more other themes are already dealt by writers since literature had began; but originality is to present the known themes in new charmed looks.

Good literature is timeless and placeless, just like a wonderful piece of music, all people love it even if this piece does not belong to their culture or heritage; but they find pleasure in hearing it.

The beauty of a great work in literature is that it is open to various interpretations, different readers can understand the same story differently, and everyone can pick up different values from the same story; sometimes they agree on the same values and sometimes they do not. Literature is not fixed to one interpretation and this is the most beautiful in it.

The knowledge of the writer is very important, he does not write from none, a novel like *Moby Dick* is adapted from a real story, and it also resumes all the experiences of Herman Melville in seas, great literature is not only a matter of ideas and inspiration it is also a matter of knowledge of language techniques and eloquence, the writer may fascinate the reader by his originality of the story as well as his mastery of language structure and rhetoric, both of the former aspects shaped great literature.

Great literature affects people, it can change their behavior, lets them observe things from different angles and feeds their imagination.

Robert Louis said in this context that: **The difficulty of literature is not to write, but to write what you mean, not to affect your reader, but to affect him precisely as you wish** (Barbara 275).

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According to Robert what makes great literature is how to write what exactly you mean, and how to affect the reader the way you want.

The reader is the important factor in making literature great; it is according to his judgment on the work that makes it great or not. For instance, the first generation of readers did not pay attention to the importance of *Moby Dick* but another generation of readers had discovered the work as a masterpiece.

Great literature affects readers of all categories, the teacher and the learner, the doctor and the patient, the employer the employees without forgetting leaders like Presidents of republics and kings, the last category of readers is the most important because they have the power of taking important decisions, and their will affect the whole nation.

Presidents can be influenced by a special literary work, it is a truth approved through the history of the American Presidency which had shown how much American Presidents were interested in literature and how they gave a great importance to writers; and a long before being Presidents, reading was their favorite habit especially in their childhood and in their youth they were too addicted to reading. The American presidents are the most avid readers, and great works in literature can to a great extent influence their political decisions.

1.4. Exceptionalism in American Literature

The term is first coined by Alexis De Tocqueville in his famous book *Democracy in America*.

The position of the Americans is therefore quite exceptional... their strictly Puritan origin, their exclusively commercial habit- even the country they inhabit which seems to divert their mind from the pursuit of science, literature and the art (Tocqueville 517).

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Alexis de Tocqueville, the French-Algerian born writer had analyzed the American society closely and noticed the difference between the Americans and other nations explaining how the Americans wanted to be different and unique in all things from other countries, at least from the Europeans. This led to the feeling of supremacy, they felt themselves better than other races, and that god is always at their side.

The concept of Exceptionalism has developed in literature from 1630 by John Winthrop in his sermon “A Model of Christian Charity” to encourage Puritans whilst they were on the ship Arbella, waiting to disembark. He wrote:

we must consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people upon us; so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword through the world, we shall open the mouths of enemies to speak evil of the ways of God and all professors for God’s sake; we shall shame the faces of many of God’s worthy servants, and cause their prayers to be turned into curses upon us till we be consumed out of the good land whither we are going. (Winthrop 1630)

The theory of Exceptionalism was an ideology engraved on the mind of writers from John Winthrop to nowadays writers. In “Song of the Redwood-Tree” Walt Whitman emphasized the concept of John Winthrop “A city Upon a Hill” and that America should forget the past and its European origins, and look forward to built a strong and unique nation.

(See the poem on note to chapter one.)

1.5. Literature and Education in the United States

People in the United States are among the world’s most readers, Americans developed such habit from their early life in schools, and the reason behind such habit was back to the American Education System that gave priority to reading.

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Moreover, education in the United States represents a crucial factor in the wellbeing of individuals, well educated people have much more chances in getting jobs.

From the early years of independence the Founding Fathers stressed the importance of education and reading books either by building schools or by giving the example of themselves, they were known of their voracious reading of books. The founders saw in education a mean to empower their people, to become active in the transformation of the American society.

Americans grow up with their love of reading, in fact not all Americans are well read, but most of them read books every day; they give a huge importance to reading and teach their children how to love books.

Books represent for Americans a sacred means of knowledge, and from these people came presidents of the United States, presidents are not born presidents but elected to be so.

1.6. The Reading Education in the United States

From early times of the history of colonial America, children were taught to read; they were given a special attention for they were the future of the nation.

The existed texts were too long and difficult for children to understand, and this what makes intellectuals in charge of the reading education start thinking of new strategies that stimulate children to love reading, consequently, they ask writers and encourage them to write stories for kids, stories that can give motives to children to stick in reading and accustomed them with the book.

By the late of 1890's until 1910, new helpful book summaries are published, and allow young learners to read summarized stories of a long classic series. Mrs. J.Gorham produced three main classic summaries using simple language which enabled children and young learners to read more stories and be acquainted with

books. From 1950 until nowadays, researchers, educators, and even teachers are developing new methods and strategies to help their new generation learn to read.

1.7. Influencing Books

American Studies deals with the history of America from different angles, one of its scopes is to study the changes that occurred in the past through the light of books written at a particular period of time. Books are strong witnesses on the different historical transitions in the American history. Furthermore, some books have a notable impact on the American History; they even represent the origins of some transition events in the United States.

Several books written in the American Literature marked a strong impression on the American Presidents, some of them helped in the progress of America while others had undesirable consequences on the general political arena in the United States.

The following titles are considered among the most influential books that really America is no longer the same after their publication.

1.7.1. Common Sense

The most popular and persuasive book written in the eighteenth century America by Thomas Pain, he was born in England and immigrated to America when he was thirty seven, Pain was known by his sense of revolution that he transmitted in his pamphlet; his ideas had inspired people in all thirteen colonies to fight Great Britain for their independence.

The pamphlet is divided into five small chapters, he knew that people were not well educated and the idea of revolution may seem to them almost impossible and difficult; so he explained to them and step by step how they can free themselves from the hand of Great Britain.

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He first presents the inconvenience of being under a monarchy of tyranny explaining to people of the thirteen colonies that rulers of the United Kingdom inherited the throne and not gaining it from elections; this might engender negative backgrounds such as ineligible kings.

Pain insists on the importance of war of independence, and democracy is its clue. Besides that he gave strong arguments for colonies to free themselves from Britain, the economy of the thirteen colonies will be much better without Britain, he argued that America is a large country full of raw materials that even Britain will export from America; so why remaining under the British umbrella.

The pamphlet was read by war leaders such as Lincoln who ordered that the pamphlet should be read by his troops too; the pamphlet was strong and persuasive either by its style and its content. (History.com)

1.7.2. Uncle Tom's Cabin

The most popular novel ever written by an American author, historians said it was the spark that started the civil war, the book was translated into over than 24 languages, only the Bible can reach such importance at that time.

“I wrote what I did because...I was oppressed and broken hearted with the sorrows and injustice I saw, because as a Christian I felt the dishonor of Christianity- because as a lover of my country, I trembled at the coming day of wrath”

(Harriet Beecher Stow 1852)

The most popular novel ever written by an American author, historians said it was the spark that started the civil war, the book was translated into over than 24 languages.

Written by Harriet Beecher Stow, the anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* made a revolution in American literature as well as American history.

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The novel renounced violence against black people and came as a reaction to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 which prohibited aids and assistance to any runaway slaves.

The first part of the book shows the life of slaves and their sufferance under very kind masters, they live a quite good life, but when their masters fell into financial crisis the first thing they did is to sell slaves in order to cover their financial deficits and did not care about the life of that slaves how it should be under another master, and did not even care about the slave relatives that stayed behind the sold ones.

The second part of the book shows the inhumanity of slavery in its nude reality, the slave Tom found himself under a very cruel master who punishes him for nothing just to show to other slaves that he is the master and they must obey him under the name of the Bible. The poor Tom suffers too much from his injuries and finally finds his freedom in death.

Stow was so intelligent, she shows the bitterness and sufferance of slaves under good masters, so how it would be under cruel ones; and if slavery is wrong under good circumstance, how should it be under harsh conditions. The impact of the novel was great on the American colonies, especially when Lincoln met Harriet Beecher Stow and said **“So you are the little woman who started this great war”**(Sachsaw, Kittrel Rushing, et al 8).

The novel soon gave its fruits and the civil war began in 1861 and ended in 1865 with the official abolition of slavery.

1.7.3. The Clansman

Not all books have a good impact on the American history; there are some that turned bad on the American society.

The Clansman called for racism and urges south colonies to return to slavery, it argued that the blacks are cruel and inhuman and must be under control; otherwise they will kill, rape, and terrorize white people. The book supports the Ku Klux Klan, the racist movement in the United States that calls for white supremacy, white nationalism, and anti-immigration.

Written by Thomas F. Dixon, *the Clansman* is a trilogy that includes *The Leopard's Spots*, and *The Traitor*. The book was published in 1905 and was said to be a reaction to *Uncle Tom's Cabin* the anti-slavery novel. (Listverse.com)

1.8. American President's devotion to reading

Books are the most common cultural tool used by American presidents to enrich their knowledge and to give a perfect model of an American intellectual man, and this will automatically influence people to read more books; Presidents of the United States realized the importance of reading to the social and cultural progress.

Books had always cost expensive, this could never impede presidents and intellectual men in America to pursue their favorite habit, not all presidents were from wealthy origins and most of them suffered to arrive to the top desk of the white house, their path had never been easy, some presidents deprived themselves and even their families from some life necessities in order to save money to buy books. John Adams told his wife that he spent an estate in books; this in our time may seem crazy but in fact that generation knew well that the power and salvation of the human race lies in reading.

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Some presidents are bibliomaniac and read books over and over again in a manner that they wanted the following generation know that books are treasures and the over reading is the key to open the hidden treasure.

Even presidents who are famous of their love for movies are in fact in love with books to a degree that they want to see their favorite stories embodied in real people, because a movie is inspired from a book, a written story that is adapted to cinema.

1.9. The Various Intellectual Alternatives that influenced the American Political and Social Hemispheres

Besides books, there were other different ways of learning and entertainment used by people previously and nowadays. These ways of learning are sometimes good for the intellectual development of people, and sometimes they represent a real danger on people's minds, and time as well.

1.9.1. Theatre

Theatre had been the most important means of learning and entertainment for ages and still has its place nowadays. Back to the middle ages, not all people had access to reading because most of them were illiterate, and theatre was their only outlet; it was their perfect place to learn and entertain as well. Nowadays, theatre still has an important place among the intellectual community, theatre also benefits from modern technology and plays are performed on stage using modern tricks and sound effects to add more originality to the plays.

Many people like to go to the theatre where they enjoy looking at actors directly and feel the emotions emitted from them and the true sensations of the play;

these people know very well the difference between seeing a play performed on a stage and a one presented on TV.

1.9.2. Radio and Television

The beginning of the 19th century marked an important turn in the life of people, the invention of Radio and TV sets were of a great importance and had a very important impact on the American intellectual arena. They play a pivotal role in recent society, almost every house have a radio and TV set , this new technology affects our minds and behaviors as well; TV and radio presented different programs that varied from intellectual and learning programs to entertainment ones. People easily relaxed when listening or watching TV programs, they enjoyed listening music and watching beautiful stories; they can also travel through documentaries to discover beautiful lands and allowed them discovering different kinds of people and cultures.

1.9.3. Internet

Internet is the most important intellectual revolution that the world had ever seen, but this new discovery had two edge effects, it can be good for people as it can have a bad impact on them. Internet can help people learn more quickly and be informed of the latest important events; people also consult books on line and read as much as they can. They have also the opportunity of buying whatever they want from Internet even their favorite food. But in other hand, Internet can represent a danger for the intellectual status of people and the danger is typically on the future of books and reading. People spent much time checking their phones, chatting, playing, see news, but few of them read books, even students at universities

preferred to check and consult sites where books are analyzed and summarized online rather than read the book itself because they believed that reading will take too much time.

1.9.4. Social Networks

People are very happy and feel good when they open their social networks like Facebook, Tweeter, You-Tube, Reedit and other net spaces; they pass long time without mind that it is a waste of time.

Moreover, the use of these social media spreads rapidly and specially among young people like students and pupils and they are too attached to such sites to a degree that they were afraid from any cut from it. People in network spend time reading news, sharing videos and photos, commenting posts and other activities which may be of a little importance vis a vis their studies. People also enter such sites to make new relations and spend time in chatting.

All these alternatives have an important and direct influence on the intellectual life of America Presidents and their reading habits. It is obvious that Presidents of the United States watch TV and listen to radio, there were presidents who loved TV programs and admired cinema movies and actors, and now of course they are using Internet to interact with people and share their opinions about important events or decisions like President Barak Obama is doing on Tweeter.

It is too early to judge if this is good or bad for the American presidency but what is clear is that the American Presidency will automatically be influenced by such networks, for the next generation of presidents will find itself obliged to cope with the social changes.

In the light of these data, the position of the book is really in danger, it is obvious that many people are not reading the same way as they did before, people

that had built the American nation were strong by their voracious reading, and they spent every cent on buying books and read for great philosophers. Nowadays things have changed and the book has found itself in a critical situation and may probably lose its position in the following decades.

(Business 2 Community.com)

1.10. Journalism

Journalism is the main source that people depend on to get their news, it is about the truth, journalism dives into society and records their lives, what is said and what happens, Journalism is the most honest activity, it is among its responsibilities to hold the concerns of the community to people in power, it has not to lie neither on people nor or power, it has to be neutral not biased.

Journalism is the result of society, of different popular classes that are melted together to form one body, at first journalism was known as *Reading Public* or as Thomas Pain named it *Republic of Letters*. John Hartley, an English researcher of Cultural Studies defines journalism as

Historically, journalism is a creature of the popular classes that were thrown together and massively expanded by urbanization, industrialization and the intellectual ferment of Enlightenment and Revolutionary Europe (Jorgensen and Hanitzsch 310).

Journalism has become a very important aspect in our life, newspapers are daily read by people, and they spent more time checking the latest news, reading advertisement, or following a specific column in a newspaper written by their favorite journalist or writer. The purpose of journalism is to seek not only facts and new events but rather truth about these facts; credibility and objectivity is its main principles.

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Nevertheless, journalism suffered from bad people who used it to fit their interests, these people are able to do anything for their benefits; different kind of journalists appeared like the muckrakers who sought only news on the life of celebrities or plotting stories about them. In the 1890's a new sort of press appeared, and had changed the history of journalism forever, it was the Yellow Journalism which had interfered directly into the political affairs and came to obliged presidents of the United States to take measures according to their interests.

1.10.1. Journalism and Society

The relationship between society and journalism cannot be defined in some lines, society has influenced journalism for many years and vice versa; newspapers could not be written if it did not find people who read them. Citizens try by every means to take part of the different events happened around them, journalism is the connector between the elites and the policy makers and the public; it is the eyes and ears of the popular classes in the political corridors. After gathering information, writing, and delivering them, journalism then will record all reactions coming from the public in different forms like questions, opinions, satisfactions, or disagreements to the policy makers.

On the other hand, Journalism can play a negative role in the society when raising some wrong facts or false images on people or countries, in the United States, people have a wrong idea about Islam and Muslims because their media had reported only news and images of terrorism and barbarism on Muslims. These false descriptions became a stereotype, and did not reflect reality about people and cause a sense of hatred among races which can lead to racism; like it happened with black Americans they were always portrayed as cannibals and inhuman which raised the feeling of anger and dislike among the black community.

1.10.2. The Contribution of Journalism and the Mass Media into the America Political Arena

Journalism had been a key factor in the evolution of policy in the USA, it played a central role in the development of the American political awareness, journalism was the cradle of major scholars and writers where they used it as a tribune to express their thoughts and share their feeling about the nation.

Journalism has a long history dating to 1770's and had suffered different shortcomings until it becomes as it is nowadays. Prominent figures in literature, philosophy, policy, economy, and other domains had marked their footprint in Journalism for they knew well its importance to society; it is another way of fighting scourges of society, and an important outlet for them to solve current issues.

The written press is of great significance in the history of America, it is by **“first text of journalism that constituted the first draft of history”** (Jorgensen and Hanitzsch 3), these texts served as primary resources for historians to write history and understand what was happening through time. There are many important news papers that are active in the United States, some are local and some are national, these papers are followed by millions of people in and outside the country, and any report published in by Journals may change different status of people or countries and even Presidents like what happened to Ben Clinton and his story with Monica Lewinsky. The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal are the most prominent Journals in the United States, the technology had helped in the spread and development of Journalism to become more close to people everywhere and with the invention of TV and Internet the Media had become more powerful than before. Great channels like ABC had brought the industry of Journalism into Television to succeed in making people hear and see what happen in the world from their homes; and enhanced the political sphere.

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Journalism had evolved through time and unfortunately the rise of the *Yellow Press* in the 1920's had an important impact in the process of certain events and pushed some presidents to take measures against their willing. This kind of news papers are still working until now and achieve high profits through its flagrant news.

1.10.3. The Media and Presidents

Since the appearance of Media, Presidents of the United States had been an important source of news, Different newspapers and broadcasting channels pay great sum of money to any exclusive news from or about Presidents and this what makes new sort of journalism appeared like Yellow Journalism and muckrakers who are journalists that looked for dirty news to make scandals and profit from selling anything about famous people without taking account of their position in society, this sort of Media always causes troubles, and lead president to be impeached like it happened with President Bill Clinton and his scandal with Monica Lewinsky, or could urge the country to enter war like it happened with President McKinley and the Spanish-American war.

Media could be a sharp weapon against them as it is their perfect and important tool to achieve their goal, the war on Iraq would not have happened if the Media had not exaggerated about WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction). The Press plays a central role in this war by launching a series of fake news about chemical weapons that Iraq acquired and giving a false picture on Saddam Hussein. Besides that, different humorous shows on TV had chosen Presidents and their life as a subject matter for entertainment, no President could avoid or prohibit such shows, and they are watched by the majority of people. So, people eagerness for reading news and following the latest updates was the main reason of the strength of Journalism in the Unites States of America.

1.10.4. The Power of Journalism

Journalism proved its efficiency and powerfulness in shaping the future of the United States and its public personages, Presidents of the United States are very cautious about Journalism and the Media in General; and know that Journalism has a magic power on people.

What the media reports about different issues could put Presidents of the United States in critical situations, and the history had marked some cases that the Media had been the first cause of big troubles for different Presidents.

1.10.5. Yellow Journalism

The concept of yellow journalism or yellow press goes back to the competition between the two famous journal's Editors Josef Pulitzer and William Hearts; Pulitzer had hired a cartoonist to portray the life in New York and to give more credibility to written reports. In 1895The cartoonist Richard F. Outcaul drew a new cartoon character called the yellow kid for The New York World, the picture saw an increased sale not only on America, but in all over the world. Unfortunately, the picture wasn't copyrighted and Hearts hijacked the cartoonist and the Yellow Kid, Pulitzer didn't cease the war and hired another cartoonist; this war between Hearts and Pulitzer over the Yellow kid raised the term yellow journalism. Later on, the yellow kid referred to journalism that used sensationalist style over rationalist style to cover events in the world and the best example is the Cuban-Spanish war.

1.12. McKinley, the Media and the Spanish War

The rise of Yellow Journalism in the 19th century has its negative backgrounds on the American political scenery, the purpose of such newspapers is to find more readers and sell more papers and the Spanish American war is the most appropriate example.

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It was in 1898 that the United States had ended the Spanish colonial rule on Cuba and other countries of the Americas, the conflict began when Cubans rebelled against the Spaniards which occupied their territories; the struggle affected the Americans in Cuba and calls for the US intervention raised. Presidents McKinley as his predecessors tried to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and by proposing to the Spaniards different offers to purchase those territories but the colonial Spanish refused.

Newspapers profited from the situation and wrote false stories based on the real facts but with exaggeration in order to gain more money or to achieve special agenda. William Hearst the owner of The New York Journal together with Josef Pulitzer the owner of New York World had seen in this critical situation their best chance to sell more papers and gain money; they launched a preemptive media war against the government and President McKinley to intervene in Cuba and push the Spaniards away from all the Americas.

Newspapers sent correspondents to Cuba to cover the course of events, and unfortunately they fabricated stories about the inhumanity of the Spaniards and how they treated Cuban and call for President to go rescue Cuban people; although McKinley wanted to end the crisis peacefully but he could not because the press had portrayed him as a coward.

The explosion and the sinking of the battleship U.S.S Main in Havana Harbor, and the oppression practiced by Journalism did not let to the President any choice, the United States had declared war on Spanish empire on April on 1898 and lasted three and half a month; it ended with the retreat of the Spaniards from all the Americas and the rise the United States as an important regional power.

(Hernandez)

1.12. The Media and President's Bill Clinton Scandal

Personal lives of celebrities is the best themes that are tackled by journalists, gossiping in America became an important source of money for newspapers, people love reading stories on celebrities and enjoy sharing them. Presidents in the United States are exposed to be the subject matter of these newspapers. Such situation will automatically cause harm the president in question and to his decisions, Presidents in such situation may deny what is said on them, or may take some decisions under pressure that can put the presidency in a real trouble.

Bill Clinton is one of several presidents that had suffered from yellow journalism when his story with Monica Lewinsky was on all newspapers and TV shows. The affair began in the white house when Monica Lewinsky was hired to work first as an intern and then she became an agent of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs during Bill Clinton's second term. Bill Clinton found himself in a dilemma when Yellow Journalism accused him of adultery, the news spread rapidly and hundreds of articles were written on the subject.

At first Clinton denied that he has sexual relation with Monica, and he took an oath and said: **I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky** (Wilson 123).

The story raised by the media had put the American society in a mess, people followed the latest news with passion, and this exactly what the newspapers wanted. Stories began to be weaved on Clinton and Monica, moreover the Media had shown testimonials of other women through the country claiming that they been harassed by Clinton.

After several months, and after long investigations, Clinton admitted his relation with Monica to the grand jury. Clinton was impeached by the House of

Representatives on two charges, the first charge concerned of Perjury and the second is about Obstruction of justice. President Clinton was then acquitted from all charges by The House of Senate and continued his functions as President of the United States.

Journalism and the media in all its categories were the first winners, they sold much and gained much, in some way the media is responsible of the mess happened in 1998, it had a great percentage in the course of events in the United States, this big industry controlled the political situation and directed it to serve its interests.

1.13. Journalism and the war on Iraq

Journalism was the first weapon of George W.Bush in the war on Iraq under the pretext of Weapons of Mass Destruction; newspapers had helped in invading Iraq by making a wide propaganda convincing the public opinion that Iraq acquired WMD and that Saddam was a dangerous tyrant who threatened the national security of the United States and other countries. Serious steps had been taken immediately before it would be too late; newspapers had exploited the 9/11 attacks to gain the support of the American people who was angry and wanted to revenge from terrorists. The press had successfully launched its war showing that Saddam and was responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

Finally, Journalism won and the war started in Iraq destructing all Iraqi infrastructures and killing thousands and thousands of innocent people.

1.14. Conclusion

The forgoing analysis shows that politics has a long history with literature, and it could never work out of its effects, it was clear that men of politics can not avoid the fact that literature and other intellectual aspects arrive at changing the direction of policy in the United States.

In fact, literature and reading in general are not a matter of learning in the United States, it is obvious through the study done in this chapter that literature, reading, and journalism, together form an important power that affects the American political Arena. The chapter also sheds light on the quality of literature, what makes a piece of writing distinctive from other works, and to what purpose books and articles are written.

The next step will delve into the reading habits of American presidents, their ability to read books and how they were influenced by what they read.

Notes on Chapter One

1. Definition of Journalism

Journalism is defined as:

“The work of collecting, writing, and publishing news stories and articles in newspapers and magazines or broadcasting them on the radio and television”

Cambridge Dictionary on line.

2. Definition of Literature

It is necessary to give the definition of literature through the most known dictionaries and thesauruses.

In the Merriam-Webster dictionary, literature is defined as follow:

- Written works (such as poems, plays, novels) that are considered to be very good and to have lasting importance.
- Books, articles, etc., about a particular subject.
- The body of writings on a particular subject “ scientific literature”

The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, literature is:

- Written works, especially those considered of superior or lasting artistic merit.
- Books and writings published on a particular subject

So, literature is about written texts either novels and poems or texts in any specific domain like economy, sociology, psychology, and other fields; written articles are also considered as literature which means that journalism is included.

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3. *From "Song of Redwood-Tree"*

I see in you, certain to come, the promise of thousands of years,
Till now defferr'd,
Promis'd, to be fill'd, our common kind, the Race.
The New Society at last, proportionate to nature,
In Man of You, more than your mountains peaks, or stalwart
trees imperial,
In Woman more, far more, than al your gold, or vines, or even
Vital air.
Fresh come, to a new world indeed, yet long prepared,
I see the Genius of the Modern, child of the Real and Ideal,
Clearing the ground for broad humanity, the true America, heir of the past so
grand,
To build a grander future.

(Whitman)

4. **The 9/11 Attacks**

September 11, 2001 19 militants supported by al-Qaeda hijacked 4 planes and committing suicide attacks on the United States. 2 planes attacked the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the third plane hit the Pentagon; however the fourth plane had crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. Over 3000 people were killed during these attacks.

Chapter two: President's Literary Situation

2.1. Introduction

Presidents of the United States are known of their love of reading, they came to the presidency with their previous intellectual baggage, their former education, and their popular traditions; almost all presidents have a certain educational level but all of them admired reading books. It is with books that they succeed, but the book is a weapon of two edges it could lead them to their success as it could be their failure. This chapter tends to show the love of reading for American presidents as well as the result of a specific choice of books; the study is not a judgment on the policy followed by some presidents but an approach that helps showing that the book is very powerful and sometimes one book could shape the future of nations. In a study made by Tevi Troy under a book entitled *What Jefferson Read, Ike Watched, and Obama Tweeted* he gave us the amount and genres of books read by the American Presidents from the Founding Fathers to nowadays, he also showed how presidents of the United states were too much close to books, moreover Tevi Troy did not exclude some other means of entertainment and education and gave examples of presidents who liked theatre, others prefer watching documentaries on TV, some of them are fan to Hollywood actors and actresses.

2.2. The Historical Literary Background of the American Presidents

The American Presidents are the most powerful presidents in the world, they are also influential inside and outside their country. Their history had always been the history of controversy, endless lists of journalists, historians, writers had written about their achievements and whether they succeeded or not.

What Jefferson Read, Ike Watched, and Obama Tweeted: 200 Years of Popular Culture in the White House” is a book that gave details about what Presidents of the United States prefer to read, and what music they prefer to listen,

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what their favorite movies are and what plays they prefer to watch. Moreover, it is a book about the decline of the Reading choice of some presidents, from John Adams and Thomas Jefferson reading Cicero in Latin and The Wealth Nation, to president Obama gibberish tweets. This is what one can understand from the first look to the book, but it is more serious than that, the book tries to show how popular culture played an important role in forging the personalities of American Presidents and how these presidents tried to communicate with their people through the popular culture.

Tevi Troy also gave a detailed account of the amount of books read by presidents of the United States, Thomas Jefferson famously said “I cannot live without books” and his personal library became the pillar of the congress library.

2.3. Reading and the Founding Fathers

America is a nation built on ideas and ideals rather than any other thing, men who wrote the American Constitution were men of letter and wisdom, their wisdom is the result of an extensive reading and contemplating works from all over the world.

In his book “What Jefferson Read, Ike Watched and Obama Tweeted” Tevi Troy speaks about the cultural and popular side of the American Presidents, he shows that even the popular culture had its part in shaping the American presidency, but he much insisted on the cultural side and the effect of books on presidents and their impact on the building of the nation. The founding fathers were the first presidents that faced the fact of building the nation, put its principles and laws, and thought of how they will preserve it.

Tevi Troy explains how the founders built their principles on the light of the books they read:

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Above all, the Founders read books. Before the first shot of the war was fired, they had immersed themselves in political philosophy, thinking deeply about how to create a self-governing society, contemplating the consequences of corruption, and pondering the fate of nations. They had a practical bent that enabled them not only to lead a revolution but also to maintain the rule of law in its aftermath (troy chap 1).

Starting with the first prominent founder, who had been the centre of studies from scholars for two hundred years, the studies were made essentially on his life and achievements and his habit of reading which put him with the elites in all time.

2.3.1. George Washington

No one was qualified to be the first American President as George Washington was, both the federalist and the anti federalists were agree to put the right man on the head of the state.

George Washington had come to that position mainly for his stoutness in fighting enemies and his wisdom and sapience coming essentially from his patience to books and reading. Left the formal schooling at early age, Washington devoted himself to learning as an autodidact, Washington read to be a good soldier, a successful farmer and a prominent president. He always organized dinner meeting with his well-educated friends to discuss books and time events and made correspondences with friends and authors in America and Europe as well. Washington left more than 890 books and pamphlets and about 100 charts and maps, a number considered quite large at that time, he read all sorts of books literature, philosophy, economics, politics and agriculture as he wanted to improve his farm; he also wrote letters concerning his matters of state as well as his personal affairs.

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George Washington managed to get books either buying or borrowing them, books at that period were too expensive and not accessible for all people, *The Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith cost the equivalent of \$615, the price was too high even for George Washington that why he used to borrow from his friends.

Washington read and reread his books several times and discussed books with his friends, he is a bright reader but he modestly ranked among the founders for Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were the most addicted president to books that the history of the presidency had ever seen. Washington always tried to reflect what he read through his dress and behavior in order to be an example for his people, he did not say do that and not do this but his behavior spoke of him; He was a symbol among his countrymen.

George Washington was a man that hates slavery in spite that he himself owned, but his refusal was clear and wished that it will be abolished latterly, because he saw that time was not appropriate to do it and he expressed his wishes in these words:

I never mean (unless some particular circumstances should compel me to do it) to possess another slave by purchase; it being among my first wishes to see some plan adopted, by the legislature by which Slavery in this country may be abolished by slow, sure, and imperceptible degrees (Fritz 1997).

Cicero, the roman political theorist, writer, lawyer, politician and constitutionalist was the best that George Washington read to, he was admired by this strong personality; Tevi Troy when attending the White House Correspondents' Dinner he heard the president Barak Obama speak about Snooki saying: **The following individuals shall be excluded from the indoor tanning tax within this**

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bill: Snooki, J-WOWW, the Situation, and House Minority Leader John Boehner (Tevi chap 1).

Tevi asked himself if the Americans are better with a president who knows who Snooki is. The question lies in the difference between the founders and recent presidents, when Jefferson, John Adams, and George Washington discussed works such Cicero, Obama mention Snooki in his speech! Is it the degradation of president's cultural level? or is it the low level of the audience that makes the president speaks about Snooki who is considered as a symbol of degradation of the American culture?

President like George Washington did not care about the low level of his countrymen, he tried hard to make his people raising their level to understand him and not the vise versa. He read "*Cato*" by Joseph Addison and admired the play so much that he ordered to be performed for his troops in 1778 in Valley Forge; that is a way how a president raised his countrymen level. George Washington loved that story of the noble Roman state man that preferred to die with honor than to surrender to the tyranny of Julius Caesar; he always quoted from *Cato* saying: **Give me liberty or give me death** (americanantiquarian.org) that was his slogan that he taught to his followers. Books played a central role in the life of George Washington; it was his source of knowledge as he wrote: **I conceive a knowledge of books is the basis upon which other knowledge is to be built** (McCrossan 248).

Now, George Washington is well esteemed for getting the United States started; his wisdom and his intellectual aspects were the secret for his success.

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2.3.2. Thomas Jefferson

The name of Thomas Jefferson is engraved in the memory of the American history with silver for his big achievements to the people of the United States. Man of state, man of letter, man of justice and inventor as well; this is usually what an American president was. He was the perfect president reader in the history of the United States; he was also the author of the Declaration of Independence.

Born on April 13, 1743 into an aristocratic family who owned a beautiful plantation in Virginia called Shadwell. Jefferson was known of his timidity and his great love to learning, aware of the importance of education, and because there were no public schools in colonial Virginia, his father hired him private tutors that taught him everything. Once entered in the College of Williamsburg and Mary, Jefferson studied hard, he studied fourteen hours a day where he learned languages including Latin, Greek, and French; he wrote a letter to Joseph Delaplaine on April 12, 1817:

“I was educated at Williamsburg and Marry College in Williamsburg. I read Greek, Latin, French, Italian, Spanish, and English of course with something of it's radix the Anglo-Saxon” (monticello.org).

Jefferson studied Law for five years and started working for the case of American Independence through his articles in news papers and booklets denying the reign of England on the American colonies and he wrote the draft of the American Constitution. Jefferson was bright, intelligent, and careful; he admired books, his personal library contained more than 6.480 books and volumes which he sold later to the congress after the British had burned the congressional library in 1812. In a letter to John Adams Jefferson described his pain to abandon his library to

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the congress: **The library treasures which I have ceded to congress, to replace the devastations of British Vandalism at Washington. I cannot leave without books** (Randolph 263).

The knowledge acquired made of him a man of states of the first degree, he was elected to the House of Burgesses where he met George Washington and other constellation personalities. His acquaintance allowed him to write laws and made them passed.

Jefferson read books from all over the world to take all what is good for his nation, he even read the Quran because he knew that sacred Muslim book is not just their sacred scripture but also their supreme source of enacting laws; in an article written by Kevin J. Hayes from the University of Central Oklahoma explaining why Jefferson had been reading Quran:

Given the fact that he was devoting most of his time to the study of law, Jefferson could justify studying the Qur'an simultaneously because it, too, was a lawbook. Being, as Muslims believe, the revealed word of God, the Qur'an not only constitutes the sacred scripture of the Islamic faith, it also forms the supreme source of Islamic law (Hayes 248).

Once a governor on Virginia, Jefferson passed a law that gave the right to citizens to choose the religion they want. He was wise and prudent about the difference of opinions between Americans and said in his inaugural speech on March 4, 1801: **Every difference in opinion is not a difference of principle..... We are all republicans, we are all federalists** (Bernstein 166).

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Thomas Jefferson's patience to books was to the degree of bibliomania and he admitted that when he wrote to Lucy Ludwell Paradise in June 1, 1789: **I labour grievously under the malady of Bibliomanie** (americanantiquarian.org).

The extensive reading made him a successful inventor, he developed the decimal system upon which the American currency is based, and also invented a machine that copied letters while writing.

The book and reading are the key elements in the formulation of success of Thomas Jefferson, and all what he read was clearly reflected in his achievements to his beloved country.

2.3.3. Benjamin Franklin, the American Dream Founder

A self-made man and autodidactic was the icon and the symbol of work ethics Benjamin Franklin. He was not president, but his reading made him a perfect man of his time and qualified states man.

Man of letter and inventor, Benjamin Franklin had push away his road to success, he was always the first to launch courageous projects, he did the first steps for the Fire Company, the first Police force, the first library, the first insurance firm, the first hospital, and the first Street Lighting Company.

Although he has a short experience in school, just two years, he turned to books as a supreme source of knowledge, he was very fond of books he read a lot and every penny gained he spent it in buying books: **"From a Child I was fond of Reading, and all the little Money that came into my Hands was ever laid out in Books"** (Franklin 9).

In his autobiography, Franklin revealed that his first collection was John Bunyan's works, and then he sold them to buy R, Burton's Historical Collection, he read Plutarch abundantly, he also read Defoe's *Essay on Projects* and Dr Mather's

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Essays to do Good that he gave him a turn of thinking that influenced him in his future as he stated in his autobiography. He also used to borrow books from booksellers and returned them as soon as possible and when he became a printer Benjamin had more access to books.

The growing nation as capitalist needed hard work, Franklin had a strong foresight to the future he was aware of the importance of working in order to make a powerful nation, the American Dream was one of Franklin favorite way to revive the dream in the minds of the people, so he started rethinking about the American Dream. Yet the American Dream was already established in the minds of the Americans, Franklin by his writing developed the idea and codified it, he put some principles to help people succeed in their life and by the success of people came the success of the Nation.

The way to wealth depended chiefly on two words Industry and Frugality, in his Almanacs he exhorted young Americans who wanted to be rich how to save money and use time appropriately, how to work hard and be compassionate towards the society. He insisted that all people in colonies must learn basically letters and numbers, through his pamphlets and articles he also advised people to practice thrift and live a simple life not luxurious one.

He was not just a good reader but a writer as well, Franklin didn't write novels, he wrote what he found it useful and helpful for people to succeed, he wrote about the best way people should live, and the way they work, and to clarify his visions he made himself a model of hard working and success, he did not waste his time in speaking or explaining too much, he just did what he said and succeed in it so people will find in him their example.

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Benjamin knew that working hard is the clue for success, and the success of the individual is the success of the whole community, so he idealized work and made the Americans idealized it too; hard work became a slogan in recent American society.

2.3.4. Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865 was the 16th president of the United States, a civil right activist, US representative and lawyer. Abraham is a unique example of perseverance and success, from a humble, poor beginning to the highest office in the United States; the task was not easy but Abraham Lincoln didn't give up.

Lincoln and his sister were orphaned at very early age, their father left them alone in a miserable cabin for more than half a year to find a wife. The new wife Sarah Bush Johnson was a loving person whom Lincoln loved so much. She knew about Abe's passion to books and in spite she was poor but she managed to bring him six books among them *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Aesop's fables*, Parson Weems's *Life of Washington*, she also brought him paper and pencils so he could read and write as well. She also saw it importance that Abe benefit from a legal education and send him to school but Abe would leave it in 3 months.

Every biography written about Abraham focused on his difficulties in obtaining books, biographers also report that he was always carrying a book in his hand, he was known to read and reread his books.

“A capacity, and taste, for reading, gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problems. And not only so. It gives a relish, and facility, for successfully pursuing the [yet] unsolved ones” (feedyourneedtoread.com).

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In fact his over reading of a single book had taught Abe many things, Tevi Troy said that from the Bible and Shakespeare Abe learned an elaborated style, from Aesop he learned the art of anecdotes which he used in his speeches, and from Weems's Life of Washington he learned the gift of how a leader can win people's heart and confidence.

2.3.4.1. Lincoln and Slavery

Lincoln passion to books is not limited to just reading for fun and entertainment, Abraham always took lessons from what he read and applied them to his personal and political career. He was a man of justice, full of humanity and affection to all people of all races and believed that all humans are equal and if the United states wanted to develop and prosper it had to abolish slavery and unite its colonies; Lincoln always declared his opposition to slavery and believed that the free sol must have free labors.

On June 16, 1858, the Illinois Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln for the U.S. Senate. In his speech Lincoln said:

A house divided against itself cannot stand. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and put it in course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawfull in all the states, old, as well as new
(abrahamlincolnonline.org).

Lincoln was determined that abolition of slavery is a necessity and he was convinced of that before the apparition of Harriet Beecher Stow's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Lincoln had read the book and consumed the message which helped

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him in his war to abolish slavery; the book helped Abraham to orientate the public opinion against slavery.

2.3.4.2. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the end of Slavery

Harriet Beecher Stow was a gift writer; no writer of her time was able to impersonate the sufferance and pain of slaves in a novel as she did, the book was a strong weapon in the hand of The Anti Slavery Movement and especially Abraham Lincoln who had benefited from the apparition of the book in his war against slavery.

The novel shed light on enslaved characters which debated the causes behind their enslavement. The book helped to the outbreak of the civil war by giving strong arguments about the inhumanity of slavery, Harriet Beecher Stow did what politicians and news papers couldn't do. The book was described by John P. Jewett its original publisher as The Greatest Book of its Kind. The author Jane Smiley wrote that **Literature should help us face responsibilities not avoid them, Stow's words changed the world** (harrietbeecherstowe.org).

Obviously, Abraham Lincoln had read the book and admired it because of its truthiness, he was grateful to the little woman as he called her one time; this woman really changed the world and her book was of a great impact on the American history.

In 1862, on a thanksgiving day, Harriet Beecher Stow was introduced to President Lincoln who greeted her with these words: **So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!** (Weinstein 1)

After the publication of the book, Abraham Lincoln found in it his outlet to enhance his course of justice to abolish slavery.

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The book is a strong designer of policy in the United States of America, it can change history; books have a strong soft power which intellectuals used to change things in the society.

2.4. The Cultural Background of Presidents Shape their Future Policy

The book *What Jefferson Read, Ike Watched, and Obama Tweeted* sheds light on the cultural background of United States' presidents because it plays an important factor in the American policy, it comes quite clear now that presidents of the United States ruled their country according to their cultural background; and Reading represent a great percent of their cultural heritage which later on plays a key factor in determining their strategies as rulers of the most powerful country in the world. The following presidents are the most prominent cases which literature and reading had marked their presidency.

2.4.1. Harry Truman

Harry S. Truman was the 33rd president of the United States of America, his experiences as a man of high political office, banking, farming and the army; besides his great love to reading and book made him deserve the first place in the white house.

Harry Truman did not earn a college degree, but this does not signify that he is unread or lowbrow, on the contrary he is one of the most heavy readers among the American presidents; he started reading at the age of five by the help of his mother, he rose as an autodidact, he read every book his hand could reach.

His father helped him a lot he brought him books including Shakespeare, Plutarch's lives (also called Parallel Lives) and the Bible that he read and reread many times. Truman did not read because he was forced to, he did so because he loved reading

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and he found it very easy task as he said on time, **it was just something you did** (Troy ch.10).

He had a house full of books, he read them all and never felt bored and sometimes his mother hides some books to let him take a nap. Truman was advised by his doctors to avoid outdoors because he suffered astigmatism, meanwhile he occupied his time with reading in public libraries, so by the age of fourteen he had read three thousands books.

2.4.1.1 Major books read by Harry Truman

History and biography are the most Harry Truman read during his life, he once said that, **“The only thing new in the world is history you don't know”** (Ibid).

Andrew Jackson was his Favorite historical figure, he read a lot of President's biographies in order to know how they succeeded and avoids their failure. Harry read four to five newspapers every morning in order to be well informed. He also developed a taste for literature in reading the works of his fellow Missourian Mark Twain, Tevi Troy said in his book that Truman lavished 25 dollars which is a large amount at that time in twenty-five Volume set by Charles Dickens which later he wrote about it saying that, **“I have been reading *David Copperfield* and have really found out that I could not appreciate Dickens before I have only read *Oliver Twist* and *Tale of Two Cities*”** (Ibid).

Erle Stanley Gardner, an American author of a series of detective stories best known as *Perry Mason*, used to signed copies of his books to Harry Truman. He was convinced that mainly kinds of books are the worthiest to read like biography and history books: **“readers of good books particularly books of biography and**

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history, are preparing themselves for leadership” and added **not all readers become leaders. But all leaders must be readers** (truman.edu).

2.4.1.2. Harry Truman and the Establishment of Israel

Truman's previous reading shaped the most important decisions in the history, on May 14 1948 the state of Israel was born after just eleven minutes from the state's founding: **“Truman extended almost immediate recognition to Israel, eleven minutes after the State's founding”** (F. graff 451).

Truman's support for the establishment of Israel, was not haphazardly it went back to his boyhood reading, Truman had opposed his own state department in order to realize the Jewish dream of their promised holy land, despite Truman's reading of the Bible several times, Truman had read the multi- volume history *Great Men and Famous Women* edited by the American author of Charles F.Horne. In doing so Truman compared himself with the Biblical Cyrus, the Persian king who allowed the Jewish return to Jerusalem as it is mentioned in Ezra 1.

Truman defended the establishment of Israel on humanitarian and religious backgrounds, Michael T.Benson, the (current president of Eastern Kentucky University) states in his article “Harry S.Truman as a modern Cyrus”, **Despite concerted opposition from his advisors, who saw the move as strategically unwise, Truman ignored strategy and recognized Israel for humanitarian and religious reasons** (Benson 7).

Michael T Benson continues to explain reasons behind the decision of Harry Truman and he concludes that his decision in helping the Jews founding their states is due to Truman's boyhood reading of the Bible:

Nevertheless, he noted, one *must* emphasize the religious nature of Truman's decision and the ways his actions diverged from typical policy making. Otherwise, there is no way to explain why Truman

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did what he did, because his decision to grant recognition is an aberration when viewed within the historical context (Benson 7).

Truman also called himself Cyrus, Truman's previous reading of the Bible influenced him to an extent that he impersonated the Persian King Cyrus who helped the Jews restoring their forefathers' Land; and when Eddie Jacobson introduced Harry Truman at the Jewish Theological seminary in New York as: **"The man who had helped create Israel, Truman quickly responded, "Helped create Israel? I am Cyrus I am Cyrus"** (Radosh and Radosh 345).

2.4.2. Lyndon Johnson

Lyndon Bains Johnson, August 27, 1908- January 22, 1973 was the 36th President of the United States of America after the assassination of John F. Kennedy

Lyndon Johnson was not that president addicted to reading as many historians recorded, but he had never been without books or articles. Johnson had endured a difficult infancy, but he overcame all obstacles and difficulties, he enrolled at Southwest Texas State Teacher College and graduated in 1930.

Johnson was a man who lived in poverty; he taught in Pearsall high school, Texas and never forgot the poor children he had taught and once a president he said after signing the higher education act of 1965:

I shall never forget the faces of the boys and girls in that little Welhausen Mexican School, and I remember even yet the pain of realizing and knowing then that college was closed to practically every one of those children because they were too poor. And I think it was then I made up my mind that this nation could never rest while the door to knowledge remained close to any American (azquotes.com).

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Lyndon Johnson was a great president, yet he was known to be a voracious reader as many American Presidents are known to be, but he believed in the little of what he read, he conceived ideas and transformed them into reality, the best known book that ever repeated when speaking of Lyndon Johnson's reading habits is Barbara Ward's famous book *The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations* which Lyndon read and reread in several occasions as he mentioned in his Public Papers in 1965: **Last night I was reading from a little book that I have read many, many times, but I get strength from it every time I read it. It is, "The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations," by Barbara Ward-Lady Jackson (Ibid).**

Lyndon was also influenced by *The Other America*, a book written by Michael Harrington; the book is an influential study on the poverty in the United States, over 25% live in miserable situation.

2.4.2.1. *The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations* and the War on Poverty

The best American president for the African American, Mexican American, and other Americans of color is absolutely Lyndon Johnson; he grew up too close with such ignored categories. Lyndon's several reading of the Barbara ward's *The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations* which he remarked, excites and inspires him. Lyndon was so sensitive towards this book; it influenced him because he found the book touched the reality of the world. The book mainly talked about the differentiation between countries and how could the Pour countries develop their economy to be like the rich ones and criticized the name *underdeveloped* countries because some of these countries were of great civilization in previous time, the book also spoke about the ideological struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union which had its impact on pour countries.

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Lyndon understood well what Barbara Ward wants to transmit to readers of the book and he tried not only to help Americans but also to help others as he said:

The goals that we will set for education, the goals that we will set for happiness for all the children of not only our land but what we can do to help others (Public Papers 846).

2.4.2.2. Lyndon Johnson Launches his Great Society Deal

Johnson was fully convinced by the ideas and the ideals of the book, especially that of equality of men and races, he did not waste time, just after the assassination of John Kennedy, Lyndon worked to pass the Civil Right Act on July 2, 1964 which was a precious gain for the American colored races. The Act banned segregation in public places and employment discrimination based on racial background; Lyndon followed that step by another one which is the Voting Right Act on August 6, 1965 which banned segregation in voting.

Lyndon Johnson promised the Americans with a Great Society empty of any kind of discrimination or poverty that he fought harshly, his New Deal of Great Society was a step toward a beautiful flourishing future for the Americans; Lyndon explained his view saying that:

To advance the quality of our American civilization. In our time we have the opportunity to move not only toward the rich society and the powerful society.....It is a place where men are more concerned with the quality of their governments than the quality of their goods. The Great Society rest on abundance and liberty for all. It demands to poverty and injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time (Graff 502).

The speech led to the Economic Opportunity Act passed by the United States Congress which helped diminish poverty and discrimination in the United States of

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America. This result could only be granted to the power of the book and showed us how Reading can be so influential on the political decisions of the American presidents.

2.4.3 Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the United States who's "**presidency coincided with, and contributed to, a long period of dramatic economic growth and the beginning of a momentous change in international relations**" (Graff 571). According to Tevi Troy, Reagan was a heavy reader he read a great amount of books in his youth, his love for reading was a way to escape the difficult times he lived, poverty and an alcoholic father. Reagan read all kind of books, but In particular those of science fiction like the fantastic novels of Edgar Rice Burroughs especially that of protecting earth from invading Martians and this explains his interest in building a missile defense shield.

Reagan read more than we expect, he always took with him a small library when traveling as his wife Nancy said. In the introduction of *Reagan Diaries* Douglas Brinkley writes that **He enjoyed reading books of all sorts- if the writing was inspiring** (Troy ch10). Although Reagan was too busy with his duty as president but he continued reading foolishly.

In parallel with his passion to books and reading Reagan was a talented actor that love cinema and movies, his love to cinema did not prevent his ambitions in politics, and as America is a country of great opportunities, Ronald Reagan was elected governor of California in 1966, he served two successive terms; He then became President of the United States in 1980. He entered the White House with his previous love for acting which will have later on a great influence on one of the most important decision in the history of America.

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2.4.3.1 The Strategic Defense Initiative

Ronald Reagan's love for movies and science fiction novels helped him in creating his Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), Reagan transformed an idea from a science fiction movie to reality, perhaps it might never happen if Reagan was not a previous actor; Frances Fitzgerald said that the SDI reflected the actor in Mr. Reagan:

“A perfect antiballistic missile defense was beyond the reach of technology. It was just a story, and yet to trust the polls, the idea had great popular appeal in the mid-80s, and many Americans believed such a thing could be built. In that sense Strategic Defense Initiative was Reagan's greatest triumph as an actor-storyteller”
(learning.blogs.nytimes.com).

The idea comes first from his previous reading of different science fiction novels and then from a movie entitled *Murder in the Air* which was the last Warner Bros' movie that Ronald Reagan had acted in, and the most known movie series *Star Wars*.

2.5. Bill Clinton favorite books

Clinton has some favorite books that he read and rereads many times, naming Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* which is a piece of literature about the life of Maya Angelou that lived in Arkansas, the same city of Bill Clinton, the book reflects the bitter life of the African American and how they overcame their problems, Maya Angelou became the first black woman succeeded in transforming her life from a racism victim to a successful independent woman. Clinton also read *One Hundred Years of Solitude* a Latin American masterpiece written by the Colombian writer Gabriel García Márquez. *The Denial of death* written by Ernest Becker, published in 1973, a work praised by the New York Times Book

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Review as **“A brave work of electrifying intelligence and passion, optimistic and revolutionary, destined to endure”** (simonandschuster.com).

Another preferred book to Bill Clinton is **“Meditation”** by the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius; the book was praised by Bill Clinton:

The thing about Marcus Aurelius, he was deeply spiritual and understood that life required balance. And that's really important in the world we live in today, as an emperor he had absolute power, and this book is in part about the thing he wouldn't do. And that's really important, you know, we're having a presidential election and one of the things I look at every time an election comes along, I think about things that I could do that wouldn't do. You know I thought about it when I was president, when I had options a, b and c, are there any I think I shouldn't do and I wouldn't do (favobooks.com).

Clinton has read other interesting books like *Living History* for Hillary Rodham Clinton, *The Invisible man* to Ralph Ellison, Clinton read also an autographed copy of Senator William Fulbright's *The Arrogance of Power* the copy gave him a clear vision on Vietnam war, noting that the senator Fulbright was known by his opposition of the American war on Vietnam, Clinton has also read hundred of books about Russia, China, and other countries to better understand the nature of people in that nations.

2.5.1. “The Balkan Ghost” and Clinton delay to end the crisis in Balkan

The book *The Balkan Ghost* written by Robert Kaplan and published in 1993, the book describes the difficult situation between the ethnic groups, Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Jews, and Muslims, all living in a continuous anxiety. More over the book describes the rugged terrain in that place.

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Robert Kaplan, the American journalist writer always traveling reporting news and situations from all over the world reflecting the lives of people who were world widely unnoticed. Kaplan did not know that his book *The Balkan Ghosts* will made its way to the reading desk of President Bill Clinton, the book was heavily blamed for the delay of the American intervention in Bosnia.

The image of the Balkan drawn by Kaplan in his book seems ambiguous and gloomy, its keeps Clinton discreet about the situation, the message understood from the book is that ethnic struggles and difficult land will surely make the operation of intervening fail; so he preferred staying far from the struggle.

This delay in the intervention was seen by the world politician critics as Robert Kaplan's fault. Laura Rosen wrote in her web Salon in 2001, **Some can't hear the name of Robert D. Kaplan without blaming him for the delay in US intervention**" (Laura Rosen Salon.com). Kaplan was astonished from the current situation and told Laura Rosen:

When I was writing and finishing 'Balkan Ghosts' and having it copy edited, my life experience was this: I had two previously published books, on Ethiopia and Afghanistan, which were reviewed well, and sank without a trace," he told me. "When I was reporting 'Balkan Ghosts' in the 1980s," he added, "the Balkans were like Ethiopia, an obscure country. The idea that any policymaker would read it, I didn't even consider. I saw it purely as an entertaining journalistic travel book about my experiences in the 1980s (Ibid).

In that case we can also recognize the power and importance of reading, especially from a president who owns the power of important decisions.

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Conclusion

This chapter is devoted chiefly to the analysis of the President's literary situation and it seems that their cultural side plays an important and pivotal role in their political careers. The analysis was done through Tevi Troy's book *What Jefferson Read, Ike Watched, and Obama Tweeted*, the title summarized a long epoch of the American cultural History from the founding fathers, the world wars period, and the latest Presidents.

The chapter shows how the cultural background of a president affects his political life from one side, and how presidents change their cultural habits from reading, watching TV, hearing radio, and interacting in social networks.

The following chapter studies in details the impact of literature on President Bush and how he impersonated the Character Ahab to launch the war on Iraq; furthermore the chapter also refers to the influence of events in the reading list choice of presidents.

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3.1. Introduction

The two previous chapters had shown how much literature is important in the development of the American nation as well as its effectiveness in building strong personalities in governing the country either as presidents or as men of wisdom. The current chapter tends to show the strong impact of literature upon the American presidents, and the different results that turn back on the political arena.

The chapter studies the major outcomes of certain decisions taken by the president George W. Bush which was influenced by a certain literary works and had very bad consequences on the United States and the world.

It is always said that George W. Bush has impersonated Captain Ahab of Moby Dick and follows his steps in killing the whale to pursuit terrorism and kill Saddam Hussein. The analysis is made through a comparative study established between George W. Bush and Captain Ahab, the prominent character of the famous Herman Melville's novel *Moby Dick* written in 1851. The chapter also examines the degree of *Moby Dick's* influence on George W. Bush and to what extent Ahab and Bush share similar characteristics.

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3.2. Moby Dick

The book depicts an important era in the American history where whale industry was dominating the American economy. The whaling began in the 17th century and flourished in the following years to reach its peak in 1846 to 1852, it is just the period where Herman Melville wrote his book *Moby Dick*.

Melville's voyages to whaling had inspired him to write about the sea world, captains, crews, and whales. But *Moby Dick* was not a matter of a sea story full of adventures, but rather a true depiction of real life on land. *Moby Dick* was not just a story of captain and a whale but more than that, it was a conflict between good and evil, nature and god, and between death and life.

The book is of great importance either in Literature or in Politics, *Moby Dick's* value lies in its prior depiction of the Presidency of George Bush and his Ahab's like monomaniac pursuit of evil which is for Bush terrorism and Saddam Hussein. After the invasion of Iraq and the WMD hypothesis, *Moby Dick* returns to the façade and the question began to be asked to what extent Bush had impersonated Ahab?

According to C.L.R James, the book is about capitalism and its bad influences on the world. It appeared in 1851, a period considered the height of industrialization; Melville's book predicted what would happen to men overstuffed with power to get their targets

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3.2.1 The Story behind Writing *Moby Dick*.

In 1820 Nantucket witnessed the returned of a survived crew of the Essex ship captained by George Pollard J.r from a horrifying trip; the Essex had been attacked and sunk by a great sperm whale. The captain George Pollard returned sailing on a second ship The Brothers, but the ship had seen the same destiny as the Essex; again survived, George Pollard this time lived the remained of his life unlucky, he never returned to sea because no one trusted him again.

Chase Owen was among the survivors of the Essex ship and he wrote his narratives "*The Narratives of the Most Extraordinary and Distressing Shipwreck of the Whale-Ship Essex*".

Herman Melville had read these Narratives which inspired him to write the end of Moby Dick. In the Narratives, the crew of the Essex had 20 men on it, 12 of them had died at sea from the disastrous voyage, some of them had been cannibalized by their shipmates.

Melville was too much affected by these Narratives, and he wrote on his copy of the Narrative, **The reading of this wondrous story upon the landless sea, and close to the very latitude of the shipwreck had surprising effect on me** (Gussow 1).

Melville had inspired from the Narratives its end but chose only Ishmael to stay alive to narrate the horrified story of the Pequod and the Whale. Furthermore Melville was accustomed to sea life from his early life, he sailed at twenty on the merchant ship St Lawrence as a cabin boy and a year after his expedition with St Lawrence, he joined whaling ship the Acushnet, where he had the opportunity to

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explore the sea and gain a respectful knowledge to be reckoned with and that helped him later on in writing *Moby Dick*.

Unfortunately, *Moby Dick* did not achieve the desired success Melville had wished, he was disappointed and turned to write only poems that are not much noticed nowadays, he also wrote some short stories for Magazines and Newspapers.

A long time after the death of Melville that the literary world had rediscovered *Moby Dick* and recognized it as a literary masterpiece, the Massachusetts house of representatives has proved a bill naming Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* as the state's "official epic novel" (*theguardian.com*).

Moby Dick is a novel with completely new dimensions; Melville had forerun his time in writing about themes America had not yet seen.

3.2.2 A brief summary of *Moby Dick*.

"Call me Ishmael" is the expression that the narrator Melville started narrating the most powerful novel had ever written in American literature, under his great devotion to become a sailor and discover the beauty of the sea, Ishmael chooses the Pequod the whale-ship to be "*my Yale College and my Harvard*" (Melville 93).

He traveled to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he chose the "Spouter Inn" to rest in. As the inn was rather full he has to share the bed with someone, that man was Queequeg, a prince and a harpooner from New Zealand, who is a melting of the savagery and civilization at the same time.

This man whom savage look and civilized behavior, soon became Ishmael's best friend and together decided to sign on the *Pequod*, Ishmael as a seaman, Queequeg as a harpooner, and both of them were dubious about the aim of the

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voyage especially when they heard about the strange captain Ahab. Their doubts about the ship and its master can only feed their adventure spirits to discover the hidden secrets behind the Pequod and Ahab.

After several days on sea, Ishmael beholds Ahab on the deck of the ship, Ishmael was frightened when seeing a man standing on an artificial leg made of whale bone. Ahab soon gathered all the crew and promised to give a doubloon to the one who see and can kill the whale Moby Dick.

Ahab's mates Starbuck and Stubb warned Ahab from continuing purchasing the white whale and told him that the whale took his leg the first time but now he will perhaps take his life. But in vain, Ahab has already built up his mind to take revenge from that Leviathan.

As the ship sails, Ahab always demands information about the white whale from the passing whaling ships. The Pequod has now reaching the Indian and no news of Moby Dick, Ahab continued asking every whaling vessel crossed him, and each captain has warned him to stay far from that monstrous whale until he met an English vessel that has soon seen Moby dick and gave him the information he needed.

Captain Ahab did not care about their warning and did not wait, he ordered the staff of the ship to pursuit Moby Dick to the last point he had been seen in.

At the meantime Queequeg had fallen ill and ask from the carpenter of the ship to make a coffin for him, following his tribe's rituals Queequeg wants his coffin to be the shape of a canoe and as he Queequeg soon has recovered from his illness, the coffin was used as a life buoy.

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Among the crew there was a worry from the oriental Feddellah, especially after his prophetic dreams of hearses carrying the dead upon the sea and that captain Ahab will have neither hearse nor a coffin for his burial.

After a terrifying storm in the sea, Moby Dick was finally seen by Ahab himself and quickly ordered to lower the boats and begun the dreadful chase of Moby Dick, when Ahab prepares his harpoon Moby Dick turns to the boat and divided it into pieces, the sailors scattered every into the sea and the rescuing of each other became very difficult because of the massive splash of the whale. The crew spent all the day chasing the whale but in vain.

The second day the harpooners were able to strike the flanks of the whale and weaken his strength, almost the whale seemed weak but he turned violently to the boats and pulled them in every directions, the men quickly rescue each other and unite themselves except fedallah who sank and died , his body float on the surface of water. The third day, the whale seemed very weak and even Ahab who tried to hit the whale but Moby Dick swims very fast and returns violently toward Ahab's boat, looking at that danger Starbuck tried to rescue Ahab who is now tied up to the harpoon and prepared himself to hit Moby Dick, Starbuck turned the ship towards Moby Dick thinking that will kill him but Moby Dick wrecked the ship and had sunk it, Ahab caught in a harpoon line which snatched him to his death, then all the men entered in a vortex created by the sunken ship "Pequod" and all perished in the dark bottom of the ocean except Ishmael who was rescued by a passing ship "Rachel" to tell us this dreadful story.

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3.3. Symbolism in Moby Dick

Themes and symbols are the main tools used in fiction to help understanding any work whatever his ambiguity is. *Moby dick* was first considered of a little importance, and was not noticed by readers, they found it too long and contained much details, but once reading in between its lines and diving into its symbolism, *Moby Dick* becomes one of the greatest novels ever written in the American Literature.

The book is full of symbols and every one can interpret the way he wants, it is open to different interpretations, the book is prior to his time and that is why readers at its first publication did not appreciate it.

Ahab, the Whale, the ship, and the crew are the main important symbols in this research; they depict the whole story of the American invasion of Iraq and the war on terrorism.

It is obvious that the interpretation of symbols in any book varies from one reader to another. *Moby Dick* is a book which offers different levels of interpretations, in this research symbolism in Moby Dick will fit to Bush's war on Iraq and terrorism.

3.3.1. The Whale Moby Dick

It is agreed on the Whale Moby Dick its greatness and hugeness, he is white and his whiteness is striking, he is very dangerous and has the strength to create chaos and fear, he is a monstrous whale, Melville personified the whale and gave him human specificities; Melville only described him and let the reader drew an image about the whale to interpret it the way he liked. D.H. Lawrence wrote in his book *Studies in Classic American Literature*:

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“Moby Dick, the white huge sperm whale: who is old, hoary, monstrous, and swims alone; who is unspeakably terrible in his wrath, having so often been attacked; and snow-white.

Of course he is a symbol.

Of what?

I doubt if even Melville knew exactly. That's the best of it (Lawrence 153).

D.H.Lawrence doubts if even Melville knew what his whale symbolized, but may be Melville knew what his whale symbolized; Melville was a seaman and a writer, and he knew too much about the sea and its creatures, he also knew the history of navigation.

Between the 1600's and 1700's, Barbary Corsairs dominated the sea and obliged any ship to pay a tribute, otherwise they attacked it and took its goods and its crew as slaves to the Ottoman Empire. It was until Thomas Jefferson became president that he refused paying tributes and declared war on Barbarian Corsairs who are also named by the Algerins Corsairs and ended the nightmare that the American ships had endured

In the pivotal chapter “Cetology” Melville describes all kinds of whales that existed in the sea with reference to the most dangerous kind who named it the (*Algerine Porpoise*); Melville described this kind of whales as:

A pirate. Very savage. He is only found, I think, in the Pacific. He is somewhat larger than the Huzza Porpoise, but much of the same general make. Provoke him and he will buckle to a shark. I have lowered for him many times, but never yet saw him captured (Melville 119).

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In 2001 and shortly after the 9/11, all the views were ushered on the Algerians as terrorists and very dangerous. On the light of these data The Whale may symbolize the Ottoman Empire for its greatness and hugeness, and Islam for his whiteness and these all may symbolize Terrorism for George W.Bush.

Obviously, George Bush had read the book and grasps its idea that Moby Dick was an evil, a destructive evil that represents Terrorism in his time and decided to go and get rid of that evil under the pretext of Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) that Iraq had and must pursuit Saddam Hussein and kill him to save the world from his dictatorship.

Bush thought that if he didn't stop Saddam Hussein like Ahab did with Moby Dick and Jefferson with the Corsairs, terrorism will gain more strength and hit America more awfully than it did on 11 September 2001.

3.3.2. Ahab

Is a complex character that combines the madman with admirable man, "an ungodly godlike man" is the most appropriate description of Ahab given by his crew, Ahab in the novel is a symbol of revenge since he was determined from the beginning to fellow Moby Dick and declared war on him, the power of Ahab lied in his strong charismatic personality that he came at convincing his crew with his plan to kill Moby Dick and got the approval from them. The idea of revenge had blinded Ahab from doing anything else except killing the whale. Ahab didn't care about the Pequod and its crew, the same case for George W.Bush when he conceived the idea of revenge from terrorism and kill Saddam Hussein, he didn't care about America and the bad consequences that might be engendered from a horrible war, Bush had just lied on his people and gave them fake arguments on WMD. Ahab and George W.Bush had listened only to their inner voice that urged them to revenge.

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3.3.3. The Pequod

The United States is always represented by the ship, Melville named it The Pequod after an Indian Tribe exterminated by the Puritans in 1638. The crew made of thirty men who were a mixture of races and creeds symbolizes the thirty colonies at that time.

3.3.4. The Coffin

The coffin symbolized death in the common understanding, but in the novel *Moby Dick* the meaning of the coffin had two different dimensions, at first the coffin was made for Queequeg because he was seriously ill, but after Queequeg had recovered the coffin was the main mean of deliverance for Ishmael when the ship had sank and all the men had died. So it symbolized death as well as life.

3.3.5. Whiteness

Whiteness always symbolizes peace and purity, Islam also symbolizes peace and security. In Arabic, Islam means "Peace". After the 9/11 attacks, Bush went to meet the Muslim community in the mosque at the Islamic Centre in Washington, D.C. he spoke about Islam and its holly message that it carried to the humanity and described Islam as "Islam is Peace". (See appendix 2)

Melville wanted to show the failure of the holiness of whiteness, and even pure things may under certain circumstances cause disaster.

3.4. A Depth Analysis of Captain Ahab

The ambiguity that surrounds Captain Ahab lets the crew of the Pequod especially Ishmael, the narrator, wove different hypotheses regarding Ahab's personality. The mystery that Melville draws on Captain Ahab was done in purpose to show the readers that there is something unusual about that captain, Ishmael was

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told that Captain Ahab is a man of few words but deep meaning, this all what Ishmael could know about the mysterious captain of the Pequod before seeing him.

Ahab was seen by his crew as "Ungodly god-like man", he doesn't speak a lot but if he does the others must listen; Ishmael describes him as follow:

"He's a queer man, Captain Ahab – so some think- but a good one. Oh, thou'lt like him well enough; no fear, no fear. He's a grand, ungodly, god-like man, Captain Ahab, doesn't speak much; but, when he does speak, the you may well listen.....Ahab's above the common; Ahab's been in colleges, as well as'mong the cannibals" (Melville 68).

Ahab was in introduced as a legend, mysterious personality, he is not like the others, and there is a secret about him. Ahab is a strong man who influenced his crew and persuaded them to help him hunt the great evil sperm whale Moby Dick who had taken off his leg. Ahab promised that he will give a Spanish Dabloon to the first one who sees Moby Dick, his men were excited to hunt the whale and get the gold ounce, except Starbuck who refuses this madness, **"The old man had found the awful motive to his vengeance"** (Ibid 167).

Ahab was seen by his fellow mate as paranoid and monomaniac, his desire to kill the White Whale haunted him day and night, and he was accused of blasphemy because he doesn't accept his fate and seeks revenge from nature! Starbuck, his chief mate, tried to stand up against Ahab's obsessive purpose and accused him of madness and blasphemy; in chapter 36 Ahab tells his crew that:

"My vengeance will fetch a great premium here!"

"Vengeance on a dump brute! cried Starbuck, that simply smote thee from blindest insect! Madness! To be enraged with thing, Captain Ahab, seems blasphemous" (ibid 136).

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For Ahab it was a matter of life or death, he was determined, there is nothing in between. Ahab wanted to kill the whale that saw it as a source of evil at any cost. Ahab's intention for killing the whale was revealed only after days of sailing, even the owners of the Pequod did not know about the previous intentions of Captain Ahab. Ahab was arrogant and he feels himself superior to anything, **"I'd strike the sun if it insulted me, for could the sun do that, than could I do the other; since there is ever a sort of fair play herein, jealousy presiding over all creations"** (ibid 136).

Ahab believes that Moby Dick is the evil itself, he is a destructive evil force that must be eliminated from the world, so he felt himself responsible of ending the evil in the world.

It is worth necessary to examine Ahab's vision about the whale and that of captain Boomer of the Samuel Enderby ship who has lost his arm when confronting Moby Dick; Boomer considers his loss as an accident that can happen to anyone at any time and not a malicious intent from the whale, so there is no need to pursuit the whale to kill him, he sees that is better to leave it alone, **"There would be a great glory in killing him, I know that, and there is a ship-load of precious sperm in him, but, hark ye, he's better let alone; don't you think so, Captain?"- glancing at the ivory leg"** (Melville 365).

Boomer never thought and will never think to revenge from Moby Dick because it is the fierce of nature and he as a simple man could never stand against; otherwise it will be madness to do it.

Ahab's cognitive dysfunction lets him give his leg's loss more than it really is, and gives Moby Dick an importance greater than he really was. Ahab was so

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enraged that he blinds himself to what the White Whale is, and goes further in thinking that Moby Dick has from intelligence and strength a degree that makes him very dangerous, Ahab makes from the whale a threat, and he declares war on it. By declaring war on what he calls evil, Ahab thinks of himself to be a savior of mankind.

Ahab, and to some extent succeeded in hiding his mental disorder from his crew, and tried to convince them of his sanity, his crew saw him as a normal person. Ahab's control over his men was strong, he had a strong persuasive charismatic personality, even if Starbuck was against Ahab's will to pursuit the white whale, Ahab can easily pass his will without any impediments: **"Starbuck is mine; cannot oppose me now, without rebellion...God keep me! Keep us all' murmured Starbuck lowly"** (ibid 136).

The men on the Pequod were excited and agreed Ahab to kill the whale, and everyone from the crew dreamt about the Spanish Dabloon, no one thought of Ahab to be mad or mentally disordered except Starbuck who symbolizes reason in the novel, meanwhile Ahab didn't want to hear of reason or logic, he silenced that voice and heard only his devotion to kill Moby Dick.

The image here of Ahab is too close of the narrator of "The Tell Tale Heart" written by Edgar Allan Poe, when he decided to kill the old man just because his eyes resemble to the Vulture eyes and when seeing them his blood run cold:

"I think it was his eye! Yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture- a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees- very gradually- I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever" (Poe 267).

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The narrator also tried to convince the reader that he is sane, and had his vision in killing the old man. The case is too much similar for Ahab, he was determined that the white whale is evil itself and he had to get rid of it. This foolish pursuit is diagnosed in psychology as monomania and paranoia.

3.5. The Presidency of George W. Bush

The presidency of George Bush was marked by many important events that had changed the world's political landscape forever.

“People are going to analyze my presidency for a long time. All you can do is do the best you can, make decisions based upon principles, and lead. And that's what I have done and will continue to do” (Zelizer 59).

The 43rd President of the United States of America, a businessman, and an avid reader. George Bush is the most critical presidential personality to be worth studied. The most prominent event is his decision to launch war on terrorism which engendered the American war on El Qaida in Afghanistan and the American Invasion of Iraq

George Bush knew that his presidency will be controversial because he was the first president to engage in unknown war in order to fit some unknown benefits to the American public. As it is known to the world that the war on terrorism was because of the 9/11 attacks on the twin towers, this is the main pretext of Bush and his administration, but the reality is vanished in the interior corridors of the white house.

Bush's war on Terrorism cost America the death of more than 4000 young soldiers in the Iraq war, and thousands of others suffered from serious injuries and

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handicaps and much other thousands suffer psychic damage. The same thing happened to Ahab when he led the ship and the crew to a horrible death.

3.5.1. The Literary Background of George W. Bush

In his book *What Jefferson Read, Ike Watched, and Obama Tweeted* Tevi Troy explained the literary situation of George W. Bush, and to what extent he is attached to reading. Many people don't know that Bush is an avid reader and was described as "unread"; Daniel Gross described George W. Bush as **A graduate of Yale who doesn't read** (Troy ch. 10).

The previous presidents read books and make sure that their image as readers is seen by everyone, but the case of Bush is different, Bush read books but he never took in consideration what others think about him.

The truth is completely different, Bush is a well read president who read books of all categories especially history and too much biographies, he read fourteen biographies of Abraham Lincoln alone, and many other presidents' biographies.

He read for Huge Long, Albert Camus, Mark Twain, Herman Melville, Henry David Thoreau, and other constellation of American writers, without forgetting his annual reading of the Bible. Bush did not just read books just for fun, but as his predecessors, he always took lessons from previous cases and tried to solve problems on the light of these experiences. He once read a book *The Case for Democracy, The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror*, by Natan Sharansky, Bush admired the book and invited his writer to his oval office and discussed it with him in order to know how to apply that experience in his war on Terrorism. Bush also took the book's themes and used them in his second inaugural address.

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In an article written by Richard Cohen published in The "Washington Post" under the title *George Bush as an Avid Reader* he gave an important detail about Bush and his reading when speaking about Hugh Thomas' book *The Spanish Civil War* and how it was among the Presidential reading list for years; Bush substituted Iraq for Spain and draw a road map on the light of this book on how to invade Iraq and get rid of Saddam.

Reading for Bush is not a matter of prestige, he read books on purpose and what he read helped him a lot in his strategic decisions.

3.6. Ahab's reasons behind his horrible revenge

Ahab pursuit to the whale is based on one reason, the whale had taken the leg of Ahab in their first contact, Ahab was so furious and considered this act as a direct attack from Moby Dick to him. He built up his mind to revenge from the whale without including the crew in his plan and decided to kill Moby Dick at any cost. This decision shows how Ahab was selfish and irresponsible about the lives of others.

3.7. Bush's invasion of Iraq, between Revenge and Interests

For President Bush, revenge was one of his reasons behind his war on terrorism, there may be other pretenses like fear, prestige, and political and economic interests.

The idea of revenge from Saddam Hussein was in his mind and worked hard to finally realize it, George W.Bush hated Saddam and said one time that "**he is the man who wants to kill my dad at one time**" (Bugliosi 258), Bush cannot base his war on Iraq on this pretext but rather chose an acceptable pretense like terrorism and WMD.

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After the 9/11 attacks, all the views were directed to the newly elected president, whether he deserved his place or he will negatively act in this critical situation. For George Bush it was the time to proof his ability to solve issues; moreover Bush felt that his prestige had gone with the attacks so he delivered an immediate speech where he promised his nation to revenge from those who attacks the unity of the American nation and that they will soon hear him.

On March 6, 2003 Bush hold a press conference where he seemed ready to launch the war on Iraq, Bush threatened Iraq consecutively and repeated the name of Saddam Hussein and Terrorism interchangeably. Bush mentioned Iraq as a "threat" sixteen times, weak to convince his people of the war on Iraq, Bush used a moralistic rhetoric to present himself as strong nationalist leader who loved his nation; and so did Ahab with his crew.

He personified terrorism in Saddam Hussein and El-Qaeda, and put his plans to get rid of them. Saddam Hussein was his important target, he decided to go to war and kill Saddam and establish a new government based on democracy, but all what he did is massive destruction of all Iraqi strategic installations and kill thousands of innocent people.

There are other implicit reasons behind his war on Iraq, Bush wanted his party to win the midterm election of 2002, moreover Bush had an eye on the Iraqi wealth especially oil.

Both Ahab and Bush had imbued their enemies with a dangerous power in order to justify their monomaniac revenge. Bush had considered the killing of Saddam as an American issue while Ahab thought of Moby Dick as evil itself and must be vanished and it is his due to do that.

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Bush is the little student of Ahab he understood his personality and impersonated him. As Ahab knew that his crew will never help him in killing Moby Dick only if he gave them a reward, and he promised them by the Spanish Dabloon, Bush also knew that invading Iraq and killing Saddam is not an easy matter only if he promised his administration by the Iraqi wealth as a reward.

3.8. Ahab and Bush setting the Stage and Creating the Scene

In chapter 36 of *Moby Dick* Herman Melville create and set a horrifying scene (Enter Ahab: Then all.). Ahab the protagonist of a tragedy, he ordered to send everyone aft; astonished by this rarely taken decisions on whaling ships, the crew obeyed and assembled aboard the ship. Looking at them, Ahab began delivering his famous speech:

“What do ye do when ye see whale, men?

Sing out for him!

And what do you do next, men?

Lower away, and after him!

And what tune is it ye pull to, men?

A deal whale or a Stove boat!

.... **“Whoever of ye raises me a white-headed whale with a wrinkled brow and a crooked jaw; whosoever of ye raises me that white-headed whale, with three holes punctured in his starboard fluke- look ye, whosoever of ye raises me that same white whale, he shall have this gold ounce, my boys!”**

Huzza! Huzza! Cried the seamen, as with swinging tarpaulins they hailed the act of nailing the gold to the mast” (Melville 133-134)

On the same steps of Ahab, George w. Bush has set his scene of tragedy and delivered several speeches after the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington where he mourned those who had passed away and preparing the American people for the next step which is defending America.

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(See the Appendix 1 on a sample of speeches of George w. Bush)

3.9. Bush's and Ahab's Creative Chaos

Both, Ahab and George W. Bush had created an enormous chaos in the aftermath of their obsessive pursuit of their targets.

At the end of the monomaniac pursuit of Moby Dick Ahab finally could stab the whale using his harpoon which was tightly caught to the whale. Moby Dick died and took with him Ahab and all the crew to the bottom of the darkened sea. Moby Dick and Ahab had destroyed everything and created an enormous disorder after their death.

Bush had also created an enormous chaos after his war on Afghanistan and his invasion of Iraq; he had created a new map for the Middle East and engendered many catastrophic results which many Arab countries still suffer from.

The difference between Ahab and Bush is that the former had created the chaos involuntarily, it was the result of the pursuit of the Leviathan; but Bush had done so in purpose, it was among his plan of vengeance.

Bush had destroyed the infrastructure of Iraq and killed thousands of innocent people for one purpose is to kill Saddam Hussein. The situation in Iraq has never been worse as it was after the US invasion.

Bush had followed Ahab in his pursuit, the sole difference is that Ahab had died but Bush lived.

3.10. Ahab's and Bush's beliefs in Prophecies

The prophecy in Moby Dick had more than one dimension, Melville in his novel Moby Dick did not mention if Elijah is a prophet or just a wise man who

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predicted things on a special given facts. Elijah predicted that the monomaniac pursuit of Ahab to the whale will have a dramatic end.

No matter for Ahab that the prophecy predicted his death; his life had no importance while Moby Dick was still alive. The sailors also believed in prophecies and many of them always tried to read their future in the stars; Ahab was clever and saw it as an advantage to make his crew believe their fate is to kill Moby Dick and get rid of the evil.

And so was George Bush, he also believed in prophecies and thought that invading Iraq was a mission from God. Bush claimed that God asked him to fight terrorists in Afghanistan and end the tyranny in Iraq. Four months after the Iraq invasion, Bush met the Palestinian delegation during the Palestinian-Israeli Summit at Sharam El-Cheikh in Egypt; Nabil Shaath is one of the Palestinian delegations:

President Bush said to all of us: 'I am driven with a mission from God'. God would tell me, 'George go and fight these terrorists in Afghanistan'. And I did. And then God would tell me 'George, go and end the tyranny in Iraq'. And I did" (theguardian.com).

Whether George Bush is right in his claim or not is a difficult matter to prove and it varies between those who endorse it and those who reject it, but the clear and invariable matter is his monomaniac pursuit to Terrorists.

3.11. The “Whatever” Policy

The “whatever” presidency referred to the presidency of George W.Bush to refer to its haughty policy toward the word, and especially toward Iraq. Bush and his administration did “whatever” they could even by lies to invade Iraq and kill Saddam Hussein.

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Philip Rubio, an assistant professor of history at North Carolina, wrote an article in the HHN History News Network entitled "The 'Whatever' Presidency of George Bush" in which he argued that Bush with the support of his administrative staff had invaded Iraq under false pretenses, and that Iraq had no relation with El-Qaeda attacks, and that the WMD were just a lie, a pretext under which he could justify his cruel invasion on a sovereign country.

Philip Rubio reminded us of Bush when he declared in March 24, 2004 that **"Those weapons of mass destruction have got to be somewhere"** (Ibid). But after the invasion it became clear that there was no WMD and that Bush had laughed on his people.

Ahab as a Captain had the same policy of George W.Bush and he also spoke of WMD, but his WMD stand for Whales of Mass Destruction and that he must get rid of that danger for the salvation of the world.

C.L.R James, the Trinidadian Marxist scholar wrote an important book in 1953 entitled *Mariners, Renegades, and Castaways: The Story of Herman Melville and the World we live in*. James explained the Imperial world through Melville's *Moby Dick*. C.L.R James analyzed Ahab's personality which helped him understand that Melville wanted to show us the monstrosity of imperialism and capitalism and that Ahab is the result of these new imperial system that the occident is following and he reflects every president who tries to achieve his goals by the "whatever" policy.

In a magnificent description, C.L.R James depicts the thinking of minds like Ahab and George W.Bush when they believe in nothing except for their desire to realize what they believe without paying any account to the surrounding environment.

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“Men who are thinking like that, classes of people in a nation who are thinking such thoughts, are being steadily prepared for desperate action. If now there descends upon them a violent catastrophe that ruins them and convinces them that the life that they have been living is intolerable and the grave doubts that have previously tormented them are justified, then they are going to throw aside all the traditional restraints of civilization. They are going to seek a new theory of society and a new program of action, and, on the basis of this theory and this program, they are going to act. This is what happens to Ahab when a whale bites off his leg.the whale is Moby Dick..... In Moby Dick, he decided, was the solution of his problems. If he killed Moby Dick it would solve all that was troubling him (theguardian.com).

3.12. Who is the Monster?

Ahab is a controversial character that is opened to different interpretations in all times, his monomaniac pursuit to the whale and his insist to kill the whale at any cost let John Huston the film director wondered in film produced in 1956 on who is the real monster, Ahab or the whale?

In his book *Why Read Moby Dick*, Nathaniel Philbrick also wondered about what would a character like Ahab suggests to the world, Ahab can refer to Hitler and his monomaniac killing of people, or may also refer to the big oil drilling companies that pursuit their profit everywhere and at any cost; or may refer to the power-frantic Arab dictators in 2011.

Moby Dick will stay a literary icon not only in America but all over the world, the book is a masterpiece; it is opened to different interpretations in every time and place, and Herman Melville was really a writer not of his time.

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3.13. Who is the Terrorist?

In the aftermath of Iraq war, many asked for the prosecution of George W. Bush of his crimes in Iraq, Bush prosecution was not only for his killing of Iraqi people but also of young American soldiers that passed in the war or lived with a handicap. The world had seen in Iraq the most horrible crimes ever committed by an American President. The war had not only resulted at killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people between Iraqis and Americans, but also engendered a feeling of hatred and racism between Muslims and Americans. Bush also opened a detainee centre at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba where they used to torture prisoners suspected to have any relation with Al-Qaeda

Several human right groups are calling for the arrest of George W. Bush for his crime. Lately, Bush has concealed his trip to Europe to assist the Switzerland-based United Israel Appeal because of the protests against him, the human right groups which consider Bush as terrorist, ask the Swiss authorities to take measures against him once arrived at their country.

Now, one can ask who the terrorist is? George W. Bush or Saddam Hussein.

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3.14. Conclusion

Finally, it is obvious now that literature has a great impact on its reader; its influence appears in different ways. From the precedent analysis of this chapter, it seems that President Bush had been deeply influenced by the novel *Moby Dick* to the point of impersonating its character Captain Ahab in his pursuit of evil.

The analysis is made through a comparison between the two personalities Bush and Ahab to show that Bush had followed the same steps of Ahab in his pursuit of the dictator Saddam Hussein as he always calls him. At the end of the chapter it was necessary to ask an inevitable question of who the monster is. Ahab or the whale? And who the real terrorist is? George W. Bush or Saddam Hussein?

The study has shown that Bush and Ahab are alike, they share the same characteristics of a monomaniac; the single difference is that Ahab died in the novel but Bush is still alive.

Notes to chapter three

Herman Melville, Life and Works

September 28, 1891 marked the death of the most prolific literary figures in the United States, the news was barely noticed by Americans; the New York News paper wrote: **“The current reading generation will not be familiar with the name Herman Melville, but there was a time when the writer’s work was on every one lips”** (J. Shields).

Because of the momentous and transitional times that America had seen in the 1800's, few Americans paid attention of the departure of such prominent figure of American Literature. Born in Manhattan, New York 1, 1819 from Allan Melville (the family added the final “e” after the death of Allan 1832) and Maria Gansevoort Melville; the family lived at the tip of Manhattan between Batterly Park and the Wharves of the South Street waterfront. (Tally, Sharon 1)

The Melville's were financially secure; Allan Melville was a successful fur merchant, as a father he afforded all necessary comfort to his growing family. Allan loved telling and recounting his children sea stories and horror adventures of sea and sailors; these narratives would have a great impact on the life and writing of Herman Melville. After the sudden death of Allan Melville, the family suffered serious reversals; Herman and his family lowered their cost of living and moved to the village of Lansingburgh on the banks of the Hudson River

Herman Melville joined his brother in assuming the responsibilities of the family and the debts their father had leaved; the 13 year old Herman worked as a bank clerk whilst his eldest brother worked as fur merchant.

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Herman left that work and entered the Albany school in 1835; he also began to read books extensively which stimulated his love to literature. He then secured a job as a cabin boy on a ship bound to Liverpool, England. In January 1841 Melville undertook a second voyage on a whaling ship the "Acushnet" from the New Bedford to the South Seas where he gained respectful information about whaling that helped him later on in writing his best work *Moby Dick*.

The ship landed in the Marquesas Island (French Polynesia) where he was captured with his friend by its people for a month and escaped the Island on an Australian ship. The results of this adventure were *Typee* and *Omoo* 1847. Both novels *Mardi and a Voyage Thither* and *Redburn* were Published in 1849 and reflects much of Melville's own experience on ships seas, they *are* also seen by critics as a semi biographical works of Herman's life; in 1850 Herman followed the preceded novels by *White-Jacket*.

Melville moved to a farm in Massachusetts where Nathaniel Hawthorn was his neighbor and became his confident whom he discussed his drafts with. He had yet married Elizabeth Shaw on August 1847 and had four children, he wrote sketches for Journals and started his most successful novel *Moby Dick* or *The White Whale*, which told a story of a monomaniac man who want to revenge from a great white whale that had taken his leg; the idea of the story came to Herman's mind after he read "Mocha Dick: Or, the White Whale of the Pacific" an article written by Jeremiah N. Renolds in 1839.

While writing the book he always revised his draft with Nathaniel Hawthorn who advised him to change his detailed accounts of Whaling into an allegorical novel. Herman reached his peak as a writer mainly with *Moby Dick* where he presented the struggle between good and evil in a strong and lovely writing style. But

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unfortunately, *Moby Dick* did not achieve the fame and success Herman expected from. Melville continued publishing novels, *Pierre* in 1855, *Israel Potter* 1853, *Bartleby the Scrivener* in 1853 and *Benito Cereno* in 1855, and then Herman Melville published his last novel when he was in Europe in 1856; after that Herman worked as an inspector in the New York Custom House and continued to write only poems which are of little importance.

Herman final years were tragic especially after the suicide of his son Malcom in 1867 and the death of another son Sanwix in 1886. He died on September 28, 1891 leaving an unpublished novel on his desk; the book was published in 1924.

General Conclusion

From the first time Europeans had stepped the American soil, they began writing texts describing their trip to the new world and their new life. The first settlers knew the power of writing, so they first wrote to forge their new identity and once achieved, writing became a tool in the hands of elites to fight corruption and changed the society from the worst to the best.

The political history of the United States is accustomed with the interference of literature in its spheres, from the founding fathers to recent presidents and states men, literature and reading had figured out and shaped their personalities; they found in reading their way to success and their way for the advancement of their country.

On the light of such premise, literature could shape the policy of the United States, it has a strong relationship with the life of presidents, and it touches the political arena in different ways, either by great novel or by strong articles in journals and magazines.

Moreover, literature has its strong place in the heart of presidents and reading is their favorite hobby in their childhood and once being presidents, most of them adopted their previous knowledge from reading books in running the country. Examples are being given in the second chapter in order to reinforce that premise; different presidents had openly adopted some strategies from famous books like Lyndon Johnson and his war on poverty which was an idea from the book *The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations*.

Literature had been and still a strong arch in the hand of its readers, nevertheless, the influence of literature has two edge impacts on presidents of the United States.

It happened that a US president was affected negatively by an American novel and a particularly a character in that novel, this president went further than to be just influenced, he impersonated that character and did merely the same thing as written in the story. The third part of the research is to explain and exemplify the case of George W.Bush as president and how he went to war on terrorism just like Captain Ahab did in his war on evil in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*; this incarnation of George W.Bush of the Character Captain Ahab is the core study of the third chapter.

As a roundup, this research tends to show how the American literature reader could be influenced by literary works, and how literature and all sort of written activities could influence the US political spheres. The impact of literature over politics depends on the greatness and the splendor of literary works.

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Appendix A

The text of President Bush's address Tuesday night, after terrorist attacks

Good evening.

Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts.

The victims were in airplanes or in their offices -- secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers. Moms and dads. Friends and neighbors.

Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness and a quiet, unyielding anger.

These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed. Our country is strong. A great people has been moved to defend a great nation.

Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.

America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature, and we responded with the best of America, with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C., to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight and will be open for business tomorrow.

Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business as well.

The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources for our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world and we stand together to win the war against terrorism.

Tonight I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time.

None of us will ever forget this day, yet we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night and God bless America.¹ (delivered on CNN 11 September 2001)

Text of George Bush's speech

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tempore, members of Congress, and fellow Americans:

In the normal course of events, Presidents come to this chamber to report on the state of the Union. Tonight, no such report is needed. It has already been delivered by the American people.



We have seen the state of our Union in the endurance of rescuers, working past exhaustion. We have seen the unfurling of flags, the lighting of candles, the giving of blood, the saying of prayers -- in English, Hebrew, and Arabic. We have seen the decency of a loving and giving people who have made the grief of strangers their own.

..... Tonight we are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done. (Applause.)

I thank the Congress for its leadership at such an important time. All of America was touched on the evening of the tragedy to see Republicans and Democrats joined together on the steps of this Capitol, singing "God Bless America." And you did more than sing; you acted, by delivering \$40 billion to rebuild our communities and meet the needs of our military.

¹ <http://edition.cnn.com/2001/US/09/11/bush.speech.text/>

....And on behalf of the American people, I thank the world for its outpouring of support. America will never forget the sounds of our National Anthem playing at Buckingham Palace, on the streets of Paris, and at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

We will not forget South Korean children gathering to pray outside our embassy in Seoul, or the prayers of sympathy offered at a mosque in Cairo. We will not forget moments of silence and days of mourning in Australia and Africa and Latin America. <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2001/09/images/20010920-8-1.html>

Nor will we forget the citizens of 80 other nations who died with our own: dozens of Pakistanis; more than 130 Israelis; more than 250 citizens of India; men and women from El Salvador, Iran, Mexico and Japan; and hundreds of British citizens.

On September the 11th, enemies of freedom committed an act of war against our country. Americans have known wars -- but for the past 136 years, they have been wars on foreign soil, except for one Sunday in 1941. Americans have known the casualties of war -- but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks -- but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day -- and night fell on a different world, a world where freedom itself is under attack.

Americans have many questions tonight. Americans are asking: **Who attacked our country?** The evidence we have gathered all points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as **al Qaeda**. They are the same murderers indicted for bombing American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, and responsible for bombing the USS Cole.

Al Qaeda is to terror what the mafia is to crime. But its goal is not making money; its goal is remaking the world -- and imposing its radical beliefs on people everywhere.

The terrorists practice a fringe form of Islamic extremism that has been rejected by Muslim scholars and the vast majority of Muslim clerics -- a fringe movement that perverts the peaceful teachings of Islam. The terrorists' directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinction among military and civilians, including women and children.

This group and its leader -- a person named Osama bin Laden -- are linked to many other organizations in different countries, including the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. There are thousands of these terrorists in more than 60 countries. They are recruited from their own nations and neighborhoods and brought to camps in places like Afghanistan, where they are trained in the tactics of terror. They are sent back to their homes or sent to hide in countries around the world to plot evil and destruction.

The leadership of al Qaeda has great influence in Afghanistan and supports the Taliban regime in controlling most of that country. In Afghanistan, we see al Qaeda's vision for the world.

Afghanistan's people have been brutalized -- many are starving and many have fled. Women are not allowed to attend school. You can be jailed for owning a television. Religion can be practiced only as their leaders dictate. A man can be jailed in Afghanistan if his beard is not long enough.

The United States respects the people of Afghanistan -- after all, we are currently its largest source of humanitarian aid -- but we condemn the Taliban regime. (Applause.) It is not only repressing its own people, it is threatening people everywhere by sponsoring and sheltering and supplying terrorists. By aiding and abetting murder, the Taliban regime is committing murder.

And tonight, the United States of America makes the following demands on the Taliban: Deliver to United States authorities all the leaders of al Qaeda who hide in your land. (Applause.) Release all foreign nationals, including American citizens, you have unjustly imprisoned. Protect foreign journalists, diplomats and aid workers in your country. Close immediately and permanently every terrorist training camp in Afghanistan, and hand over every terrorist, and every person in their support structure, to appropriate authorities. (Applause.) Give the United States full access to terrorist training camps, so we can make sure they are no longer operating.

I also want to speak tonight directly to Muslims throughout the world. We respect your faith. It's practiced freely by many millions of Americans, and by millions more in countries that America counts as friends. Its teachings are good and peaceful, and those who commit evil in the name of Allah blaspheme the name of Allah. (Applause.) The terrorists are traitors to their own faith, trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself. The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists, and every government that supports them. (Applause.)

Our war on terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated. (Applause.)

Americans are asking, why do they hate us? They hate what we see right here in this chamber -- a democratically elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed. They hate our freedoms -- our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote and assemble and disagree with each other.

They want to overthrow existing governments in many Muslim countries, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. They want to drive Israel out of the Middle East. They want to drive Christians and Jews out of vast regions of Asia and Africa.

These terrorists kill not merely to end lives, but to disrupt and end a way of life. With every atrocity, they hope that America grows fearful, retreating from the world and forsaking our friends. They stand against us, because we stand in their way.

Americans are asking: How will we fight and win this war? We will direct every resource at our command -- every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence, and every necessary weapon of war -- to the disruption and to the defeat of the global terror network.

This war will not be like the war against Iraq a decade ago, with a decisive liberation of territory and a swift conclusion. It will not look like the air war above Kosovo two years ago, where no ground troops were used and not a single American was lost in combat.

Our nation has been put on notice: We are not immune from attack. We will take defensive measures against terrorism to protect Americans. Today, dozens of federal departments and

agencies, as well as state and local governments, have responsibilities affecting homeland security. These efforts must be coordinated at the highest level. So tonight I announce the creation of a Cabinet-level position reporting directly to me -- the Office of Homeland Security.

And tonight I also announce a distinguished American to lead this effort, to strengthen American security: a military veteran, an effective governor, a true patriot, a trusted friend -- Pennsylvania's Tom Ridge. (Applause.) He will lead, oversee and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard our country against terrorism, and respond to any attacks that may come.

These measures are essential. But the only way to defeat terrorism as a threat to our way of life is to stop it, eliminate it, and destroy it where it grows. (Applause.)

Many will be involved in this effort, from FBI agents to intelligence operatives to the reservists we have called to active duty. All deserve our thanks, and all have our prayers. And tonight, a few miles from the damaged Pentagon, I have a message for our military: Be ready. I've called the Armed Forces to alert, and there is a reason. The hour is coming when America will act, and you will make us proud. (Applause.)

This is not, however, just America's fight. And what is at stake is not just America's freedom. This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight. This is the fight of all who believe in progress and pluralism, tolerance and freedom.

We ask every nation to join us. We will ask, and we will need, the help of police forces, intelligence services, and banking systems around the world. The United States is grateful that many nations and many international organizations have already responded -- with sympathy and with support. Nations from Latin America, to Asia, to Africa, to Europe, to the Islamic world. Perhaps the NATO Charter reflects best the attitude of the world: An attack on one is an attack on all.

The civilized world is rallying to America's side. They understand that if this terror goes unpunished, their own cities, their own citizens may be next. Terror, unanswered, can not only bring down buildings, it can threaten the stability of legitimate governments. And you know what -- we're not going to allow it. (Applause.)

Americans are asking: What is expected of us? I ask you to live your lives, and hug your children. I know many citizens have fears tonight, and I ask you to be calm and resolute, even in the face of a continuing threat.

I ask you to uphold the values of America, and remember why so many have come here. We are in a fight for our principles, and our first responsibility is to live by them. No one should be singled out for unfair treatment or unkind words because of their ethnic background or religious faith. (Applause.)

I ask you to continue to support the victims of this tragedy with your contributions. Those who want to give can go to a central source of information, libertyunites.org, to find the names of groups providing direct help in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The thousands of FBI agents who are now at work in this investigation may need your cooperation, and I ask you to give it.

I ask for your patience, with the delays and inconveniences that may accompany tighter security; and for your patience in what will be a long struggle.

I ask your continued participation and confidence in the American economy. Terrorists attacked a symbol of American prosperity. They did not touch its source. America is successful because of the hard work, and creativity, and enterprise of our people. These were the true strengths of our economy before September 11th, and they are our strengths today. (Applause.)

And, finally, please continue praying for the victims of terror and their families, for those in uniform, and for our great country. Prayer has comforted us in sorrow, and will help strengthen us for the journey ahead.

Tonight I thank my fellow Americans for what you have already done and for what you will do. And ladies and gentlemen of the Congress, I thank you, their representatives, for what you have already done and for what we will do together.

Tonight, we face new and sudden national challenges. We will come together to improve air safety, to dramatically expand the number of air marshals on domestic flights, and take new measures to prevent hijacking. We will come together to promote stability and keep our airlines flying, with direct assistance during this emergency. (Applause.)

We will come together to give law enforcement the additional tools it needs to track down terror here at home. (Applause.) We will come together to strengthen our intelligence capabilities to know the plans of terrorists before they act, and find them before they strike. (Applause.)

We will come together to take active steps that strengthen America's economy, and put our people back to work.

Tonight we welcome two leaders who embody the extraordinary spirit of all New Yorkers: Governor George Pataki, and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. (Applause.) As a symbol of America's resolve, my administration will work with Congress, and these two leaders, to show the world that we will rebuild New York City. (Applause.)

After all that has just passed -- all the lives taken, and all the possibilities and hopes that died with them -- it is natural to wonder if America's future is one of fear. Some speak of an age of terror. I know there are struggles ahead, and dangers to face. But this country will define our times, not be defined by them. As long as the United States of America is determined and strong, this will not be an age of terror; this will be an age of liberty, here and across the world. (Applause.)

Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger we have found our mission and our moment. Freedom and fear are at war. The advance of human freedom -- the great achievement of our time, and the great hope of every time -- now depends on us. Our nation -- this generation -- will lift a dark threat of violence from our

people and our future. We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage. We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail. (Applause.)

It is my hope that in the months and years ahead, life will return almost to normal. We'll go back to our lives and routines, and that is good. Even grief recedes with time and grace. But our resolve must not pass. Each of us will remember what happened that day, and to whom it happened. We'll remember the moment the news came -- where we were and what we were doing. Some will remember an image of a fire, or a story of rescue. Some will carry memories of a face and a voice gone forever.

And I will carry this: It is the police shield of a man named George Howard, who died at the World Trade Center trying to save others. It was given to me by his mom, Arlene, as a proud memorial to her son. This is my reminder of lives that ended, and a task that does not end. (Applause.)

I will not forget this wound to our country or those who inflicted it. I will not yield; I will not rest; I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security for the American people.

The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain. Freedom and fear, justice and cruelty, have always been at war, and we know that God is not neutral between them. (Applause.)

Fellow citizens, we'll meet violence with patient justice -- assured of the rightness of our cause, and confident of the victories to come. In all that lies before us, may God grant us wisdom, and may He watch over the United States of America.

Thank you. (Applause.)

Appendix B

President George W. Bush at the Islamic Center of Washington on Sept. 17, 2001

"Islam is Peace" Says President



THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much for your hospitality. We've just had a -- wide-ranging discussions on the matter at hand. Like the good folks standing with me, the American people were appalled and outraged at last Tuesday's attacks. And so were Muslims all across the world. Both Americans and Muslim friends and citizens, tax-paying citizens, and Muslims in nations were just appalled and could not believe what we saw on our TV screens.

These acts of violence against innocents violate the fundamental tenets of the Islamic faith. And it's important for my fellow Americans to understand that.

The English translation is not as eloquent as the original Arabic, but let me quote from the Koran, itself: In the long run, evil in the extreme will be the end of those who do evil. For that they rejected the signs of Allah and held them up to ridicule.

The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is all about. **Islam is peace.** These terrorists don't represent peace. They represent evil and war.

When we think of Islam we think of a faith that brings comfort to a billion people around the world. Billions of people find comfort and solace and peace. And that's made brothers and sisters out of every race -- out of every race.

America counts millions of Muslims amongst our citizens, and Muslims make an incredibly valuable contribution to our country. Muslims are doctors, lawyers, law professors, members of the military, entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, moms and dads. And they need to be treated with respect. In our anger and emotion, our fellow Americans must treat each other with respect.

Women who cover their heads in this country must feel comfortable going outside their homes. Moms who wear cover must be not intimidated in America. That's not the America I know. That's not the America I value.

I've been told that some fear to leave; some don't want to go shopping for their families; some don't want to go about their ordinary daily routines because, by wearing cover, they're afraid they'll be intimidated. That should not and that will not stand in America.

Those who feel like they can intimidate our fellow citizens to take out their anger don't represent the best of America, they represent the worst of humankind, and they should be ashamed of that kind of behavior.

This is a great country. It's a great country because we share the same values of respect and dignity and human worth. And it is my honor to be meeting with leaders who feel just the same way I do. They're outraged, they're sad. They love America just as much as I do.

I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by. And may God bless us all.

General Introduction

Chapter One

The Literary Background of the United
States

Chapter Two

President's Literary Situation

Chapter Three

Moby Dick and Bush's Incarnation of
Captain Ahab

General Conclusion

Bibliography

Appendices

ملخص

الهدف من الدراسة الحالية هو اظهار الاثار المختلفة للأدب على المجال السياسي الأميركي من خلال تحليل الحياة المهنية و الفكرية لمختلف رؤساء أمريكا . كشفت الدراسة على أهمية الأدب في بناء الأمة الأمريكية. ومن ناحية اخرى, كشفت الدراسة أيضا على الجوانب السلبية للأدب على سياسة جورج دبليو بوش على وجه الخصوص.

الكلمات المفتاحية : القراءة -الأدب -الرؤساء -والسياسة - كتب

Résumé

L'objectif de l'étude en cours est de montrer les différents impacts de la littérature sur la sphère politique américaine à travers l'analyse des carrières intellectuelles de différents présidents américains. La recherche a révélé l'importance de la littérature dans la construction de la nation américaine; néanmoins, l'étude a également exposé les aspects négatifs de la littérature sur la politique de George W. Bush en particulier.

Mots Clés : Lecture- Literature- Présidents- Politique- Livres

Summary

The aim of the current study is to show the various impacts of literature upon the American political sphere through the analysis of different American Presidents' intellectual careers. The research has revealed the importance of literature in building the American nation; nevertheless, the study has also exposed the negative aspects of literature over the policy of George W. Bush in particular.

Key Words: Reading- Literature- Presidents- Policy- Books