Abstract

In the twenty-first century, the United States has come to support a fascist regime. If fascism is an ideology, the question is not particularly how we got to this point, but rather what antecedent beliefs in American history supported this type of thinking? To answer this question, my paper is split into three sections. The first section is an introduction that outlines my argument and properly defines terms that are centered in my argument, which are fascism and imperialism, manifest destiny, nationalism, and the conceptualization of race in the 1850s. Imperialism, manifest destiny, and nationalism apply to the second section, while fascism applies to the third. The second section analyzes two high-brow journals and some President’s State of the Union Addresses to show tribalist nationalism, the expansion of the United States to the Pacific Ocean and the treatment of Native Americans in the process, the expressed desires to expand into Asia, and the filibuster insurgents that attempted to annex Cuba and conquered Nicaragua. The third section covers the 1860s and 1870s, with Edward A. Pollard’s two books and his revisionist history, the origins of the Ku Klux Klan, the origins of other white supremacist organizations, the violence committed against African Americans during Reconstruction, convict leasing and the attempts to control black labor, anti-democratic policies that restricted the civil and constitutional rights of blacks, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.