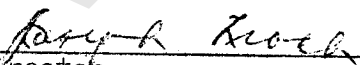



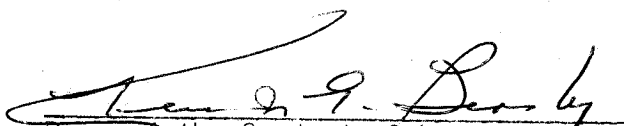
THOREAU AND THE HIPPIES

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PREVIEW

THOREAU AND THE HIPPIES

A Seminar Report

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School

The University of Texas at El Paso

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

by

Fletcher C. Newman

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PREVIEW

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THOREAU AND THE HIPPIES

One philosophy of history proposes that all human events are cyclical. This view can be traced back at least as far as the third century B.C., for in Ecclesiastes we read: "What was will be again; what has been done will be done again; and there is nothing new under the sun." Much earlier, Hindu philosophy proposed a similar view. Another philosophy sees all of history as revolving around the lives of great men. Probably both of these interpretations are partially true. In all ages of civilization we read of nations being built up, of nations being destroyed, of men fleeing into desert solitudes and then returning to society in sackcloth and ashes prophesying peace or prophesying war. It is our peculiar nature to want to label, to try to associate movements with great names and precise dates--forgetting that from the dawn of recorded history, human nature seems to have remained the same. There always have been pacifists and war-mongers, movements to the left and movements to the right. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, we learn in physics, or, as Henry David Thoreau said in Walden: "One generation abandons the enterprises of another like stranded vessels."¹

To trace these movements back to their original source is a difficult and sometimes fruitless task, and the results obtained are

¹Brooks Atkinson, ed., Walden and Other Writings by Henry David Thoreau (New York: Random House, 1950), p. 10. All quotations from Thoreau's writings, unless otherwise noted, are from this edition, hereafter cited as Atkinson, Thoreau.