

Beard, Charles A.

His books and articles In American liberalism

دراسة تحليلية لأبرز كتابات المؤرخ الأمريكي تشارلز بيرد



Dr .Sarah Alanzy

reef-2011@hotmail.com

جامعة تكساس الجنوبية المملكة العربية السعودية

Date de soumission: 01/04/2019 date d'acceptation: 24/05/2019



Summary:

In my research paper I want to talk about Charles A. Beard's arguments, theories, and ideas reflection on American citizen, which is represented by studying his books and articles. Beard is an American historian who iconoclastic studies of the development of U.S. political institutions. Beard thereafter became one of the intellectual leaders of the Progressive movement and of American liberalism. he has many iconoclastic masterwork sparked a deep historical debate that has not abated. Scrutinizing the Constitution in light of economic forces, covers the nation's history from colonial times to World War I, he was criticizing as a perfect example of an introductory history to the United States of America. Moreover, if you take a look at his book you will get that his books has been selected by scholars as being culturally necessary and the important part of the knowledge base of American civilization and democracy. Also he wrote about the Theory of political economy to explain the conception of the US constitution and the consequential balancing of powers

Introduction:

Charles A. Beard, in full name Charles Austin Beard (born November 27, 1874, near Knightstown, Indiana, U.S. He died in September 1, 1948, New Haven, Connecticut) he is an American historian, best known for his iconoclastic studies of the development of U.S. political institutions. He is one of the most influential American historians of his time. His emphasis on the dynamics of socioeconomic struggle and change and his analysis of motivational factors in the founding of institutions. Beard thereafter became one of the intellectual leaders of the Progressive movement and of American liberalism. He was a leader in movements seeking improvements in native government and administration and in national planning. He was initially interested in history of Europe, and he collaborated with J.H. Robinson in writing several widely used textbooks on that subject. Beard's 1910 American Government and Politics made a similarly innovative contribution to the teaching of political by looking beyond the official institutional structure of the American system to how things actually worked. Beard wrote many books and articles on history and government both together and individually. His economic books argue that economic interests were the real reasons for the framing of the US.

Research significance and scoring:

In this work we will mention what he wrote about Madison's Theory of political economy and his most important books which dealt with American economic are **An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United State, History of The united States, The Economic Basis of Politics** and many book that we are talking about in this work. In addition, we are discussing how he analyzed an American economic history in his book? And the argument of his research on the U.S. constitution and how Beard's gave a timeline of events in convincing readers that economic interests of policy developers rather than the interests of the public were the most prioritized when the American law was developed. Overtime we will respond many question

which is represented by how he talked about American law, political theory, scientific progress, social reform, education, literature, feminism, the fine arts, philosophy. Also how issues such as sectionalism and capitalism were developed and adopted?

American democracy

The Rise of American Civilization (1927), the book that explained American democracy. Moreover, he published over three hundred articles and about sixty books, some in cooperation with his wife, Mary Ritter Beard and some with other associates. His textbooks on American and Europe history and on American government sold many millions of copies. The product of an age of reform, he was always the scholar attract assailing conventional myths and shibboleths, pronouncing permanently on current events, and dipping repeatedly into policy making. The force of his personality penetrated not only his writing but every dimension of his life; for Beard enjoyed his power and cavity himself with the authority of an ancient sage

The most prominent analysis of American economic history:

Beard's (2004) argument was to trace the foundation of the US constitution to the financial interests of the elite class. The historian faulted the document by pointing out that it prioritized the economic interests of the American wealthy class who by then were the most influential politically. He analyzed the American economic history to establish his assertions that it was the major motivation for the conceptualization of the constitution. The historian narrated how the economic situation in the early days influenced decisions such as political revolutions and how the wealthy manipulated the system so that they enjoyed benefits such as tax cuts and protection of their property. He argued that the deliberative assembly of the constitution developers was not all inclusive and only the rich were represented at the expense of the poor, and they cohesively fought for their economic standing and protection of their property. The Historian illustrated his argument by examining the economic interests of individual members of the

development team. According to him, the occupations, tax records, biographies, and their reputations suggested that the developers had overwhelming conflicts of interests. He felt that they were unfit for the task as they owned large tracts of land and they had to ensure that they secured the ownership legally. Beard reported that some of the members had even been actively involved in pushing for the revolution that led to the designing of the new law especially by funding the process

The argument of his research on the U.S. constitution :

Beard subject was the influence of economic interests of the rich on the development of the American constitution. He termed his research area as under explored compared to other social aspects that could have determined the design of the constitution. He wrote about Madison's Theory of political economy to explain the conception of the US constitution and the consequential balancing of powers. He gave a detailed explanation of the conception of the current structure of the government emphasizing the federal level. The author also wrote about influence of the international trade and politics in the development of the constitution. According to him, foreign nations brought up discord among American regions and engaged the US into treaties that were motivated by economic pressures. Beard concluded his work by writing about how different classes of people voted for the constitution. From his analysis, there was discord along economic lines in which wealthy persons supported the new law while their poor counterparts were dissatisfied. Beard's gave a timeline of events in convincing readers that economic interests of policy developers rather than the interests of the public were the most prioritized when the American law was developed

Beard's sources:

His sources were mostly on the political history of the States. The sources were vital in explaining how issues such as sectionalism and capitalism were developed and adopted. They also explained the social forces that informed the conceptualization of the US constitution. Beard also explored literature that was related to economic history of the US. The sources were critical

as they offered the historian a base for advancing his arguments. While some of the source upheld his point of view, others dismissed some of the perceptions such as the relevance and appropriateness of the economic theory in understanding the historical developments. The author also referred to works outside the US that were historical reviews of the impacts of money economy on policy making. Literature on the US constitution also formed the base of Beard's work. The other crucial sources in the book were about the terms and patterns of property ownership across various states as related to the author's claims of there being discrepancies. The author's selection of sources was mostly based on historical relevance and interpretation of events from an economic perspective

The most misinformed analyses in his researches:

Despite Beard's perspective being well-informed, there was room for biases that could significantly challenge his assertions. For instance, he narrated history and gave interpretations from an academic perspective but failed to balance the same with arguments from a legal point of view. The scholar borrowed more from history professors, but he did not consult as much from the legal community. Since his work was on the history of the American constitution, it was expected that the author should have established a rich legal background as well. Therefore, while Beard's interpretations could be right, there are possibilities for contradicting interpretation of concepts and events more so when considered from the legal rather than the academic point of view. It is also possible that Beard's understanding of economic interests that were crucial in the development of the constitution was misinformed. The historian's interpretation of facts such as regarding capitalism and sectionalism could have been biased. Issues that he perceived as the interests of particular individuals

could be understood as agendas for economic development, political unity, and diplomatic wellness of the society by other observers.

Capitalism and sectionalism in U.S. history:

Beard viewed history as the source of class conflicts that presented in the society. He implied that the American constitution was

embedded in historical injustices in which the poor were victimized. According to him, the American history had established a certain class as property owners and the constitution affirmed the imbalances. From beard's work, factors that are understood to be driving human history include economic interests among other social determinants. However, when public interests are compromised, a particular class could flourish while victimizing the others. Nevertheless, people's perspectives on how public interests are settled could be contradictory. Understanding of ideas also influence human behavior as it is through the approach that people can determine how to react to given situations. Capitalism and sectionalism are examples of ideas which people could understand differently as illustrated in Beard's work. Nevertheless, the book is unquestionably resourceful to the profession of the analysis of history and governance. It is particularly important when considering intellectual alongside progressive history. Indeed, the researcher developed ideas that would be useful in explaining political revolutions as they relate to economic determinants.

Foreign policy in U.S. history:

After Charles Beard's challenging study of *American Foreign Policy in the Making*,

1932-1940, he considered the book, *President Roosevelt and the Coming of the War*, as a follow up of the infuriated country, which permanently damaged his rank as the most influential historian in America.

In his argument, Beard's main point is that leaders from both Republican and Democratic sides of the political battle field, and above all Roosevelt, worked secretly between the years 1940 to 194, to warm the US' way into World War II. After doing an extensive historical and managerial research on the accessible congressional and administrative records, Beard deduced that the image of FDR as an impartial, and as a leader who loves peace, was a just but disguise, that Roosevelt used as a

cover-up in his planning for the Second World War against the Japanese and the Germans. According to Beard, Roosevelt did the planning even much prior to the on Pearl Harbor attack.

Professor Charles A. Beard asserts that different leadership styles, leadership characterization and approaches manifested in helping associate countries in Europe like the Great Britain and upholding firm neutral stance with reference to countries such as Japan and Germany was indefensible. He doesn't insinuate in his assertion that all the countries were the same or some countries did deserve America's support while some others did not deserve the support, however he says, President Roosevelt decided to give Great Britain a helping hand on the sly outside the constitution instead of openly and publicly revealing the case to Americans. According to Beard, President Roosevelt changed from neutrality policy to that of armed intervention. He continued and opined that the President if doing this did not surrender the

appearance, the fiction of neutrality - a fundamental claim that makes this piece of literary work equally explosive in 2003 just like when it was released for the first time in 1948

Just like Archias Cicero admitted to himself at a loss for words to show the perfection that came as a consequent of an arrangement of original and natural talents together with sufficient training while acknowledging the poet, I would wish to state, while reviewing this marvelous literary piece that, I have been bowled over this artistic piece and I do for sure lack words worth appreciating it. With reflection to this work of Professor and Mrs. Beard, I would wish to state the Ciceronian components are so extraordinarily blended. An accomplishment that is worth total

admiration and praise is that of attaining with even indifferent success the commission of synthesizing the political, economic and cultural basics in the American history from the colonial era to the present, but the fact that the work was done with such a great mastery of material, such biasness in judgment, such energy and charisma of style as characterized in Professor and Mrs. Beard's two volumes, is an input to American historiography which can only be fitly illustrated as periodic

Beard's researches in American civilization:

In as much as there is always dominance in the economic note, just as one would expect considering the names of the authors, this piece of work is imperceptibly an economic history of the United States of America. Constitutional law, political theory, scientific progress, social reform, education, literature, feminism, the fine arts, philosophy, the fire of the frontiersmen, the flunkeyism of the “Four Hundred”, together with many more topics have found their suitable treatment and have received their almost eerie consideration in this scrutiny of American civilization.

The movement is necessarily swift, for even 1650 pages is a narrow compass in which to compress the story of the vicissitudes of American life and the varieties of American thought through three centuries. The volumes have been aptly called a long editorial on American history. Details of politics, for example, are assumed to be part of the reader’s equipment. The history of the United States of America military has been simply ignored. In some few but insightful sentences, the author has brought out many dramatic incidences which many American historians have been tempted to write down into many rhetoric pages history. The

authors, I believe still have more other tasks to perform rather than to overhaul the oft-told history of the administrations of the presidents of the United States of America. Basing my conclusion on these extensive chronological accounts of the US, between the period of 1940 and 1941, I will not shilly-shally to state that I am in substantial concord with the conclusions of Professor Bear.

The content of the book An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States:

An economic origin of Jefferson Democracy has influenced the U.S economy to the current regime where history has repeated itself in the recent U.S. nominations and later getting a new president. His political ethics must be remembered as he and other democratic leaders secured a high politicized position. The discourse will discuss the contribution of Beard, in making the county realize his professionalism

and our understanding of the U.S history. Today, popular culture rules the town but the people do not understand where the freedom came from.

Beard has been an inspiration to the current president's policies. Jefferson was motivated by economics rather than philosophy principles which were advocated by the founding fathers of the United States. The content of the book *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States* published in 1913 has caused great controversy after it was published however, it has stood to

be the best interpreter of American History where the founding fathers had large stake in decision making process. Beard suffered during the Cold War after inflicting the founding fathers. Today, his motherland is in ruins and his story was dropped by many historians.

Finally, Beard has written many books entailing American superpower concepts and the oppression it has caused to many generations. For example, the study of American policy when President Roosevelt was in power cost him a lot. As a progressive historian, Beard introduced influential themes in economics that were adapted after the new constitution and civil war aftermath. He was declared as a hero historian with economic interests. His theme

concentrated more on American history and its foreign political policies which is driven by individual interests.

In the book *Economics Origins of Jeffersonian Democracy*, he advocated for equality and justice in the fight against equality. Beard's ethics remains as one of the most brilliant thoughts waiting to be written as American history along economic lines. He argued that the constitution was developed to counter-attack the revolution and was set up by rich bond "personal property" holders who opposed farmers and planters "real properties" owners. His concept has been challenged by many economists who argue that political unity, subtle defense, and general development of the society factors were considered in changing the constitution. Progressive interpretation therefore was reinstated by

intellectual history approach which led to massive support from the republicans.

Beard believes that the constitution was drafted in favor of economic gurus or rather the founding fathers. This ideology has led to historical interpretation of American history and the method used to draft the constitution. His work has influenced many American historians. Beard analyzed the political class in that era and had proof to historians how president Roosevelt ethics affected decision making during the constitution review era

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