

Flehinger Clip 3 Transcript

BRETT FLEHINGER: So the Scopes Trial ends up with this narrative definition. It's this pathetic last stand, not just of Bryan, because if Bryan is, you know, having a last stand, who else gets caught up in this? Does the question makes sense? For whom else is this the pathetic last stand? Yeah, Jonah. And there's a microphone right behind you.

JONAH: It seemed to me the people of Dayton and maybe--

BRETT FLEHINGER: Keep going. You're right.

JONAH: --could be abstracted to Evangelical Christian.

BRETT FLEHINGER: Evangelical Christians, rural people, exactly. The rural West and South and Evangelicals. And this is often seen as, in many ways, if you look between-- and Larson gives you this a little bit-- if you look between 1925 and the late 1960s, you start to see a turn against both majoritarianism, and you see a turn against public displays of religion.

And what's seen here-- and finally, also, a turn against resistance or antievolutionary thought. And so what this is often seen is-- and in fact, when I started in graduate school in 1990, the Scopes Trial is the Death Knell for our traditional Evangelicalism in politics at some level.

The problem is-- and I have to look at my notes because I can never remember what year this was-- things changed. And history takes a different meaning as we go forward. And I'll get to that in a moment. But I can't find the year.

Actually, can somebody on your computer look up *Kitzmiller*, K-I-T-Z-M-I-L-L-E-R, *versus Dover*? And just get me the year. And you can holler that out.

STUDENT: It ended 2005.

BRETT FLEHINGER: 2005, OK. I was going to go 2002, so I was going to be wrong. So that's why you should always look up your sources. Yeah, *Kitzmiller versus Dover* is basically a new Supreme Court case about the Dover area school board, Dover, Pennsylvania, where they made an attempt to teach, to mandate the teaching of intelligent design.

And the Supreme Court the court basically said, this is just an attempt to teach evolution. To me what's meaningful about this-- and in fact this isn't the first moment when antievolutionary thought rises again in the 1990s and early 2000s-- is that, in fact, we were wrong.

Scopes Trial isn't the Death Knell of traditional antievolutionary belief, traditional Evangelical politics. Instead, it runs underground. And what you see, and this is where we're going to go from here, is a kind of dominant liberalism, not majoritarian liberalism, but a kind of dominant elite and minority-oriented, or rights-based liberalism, that becomes powerful in American politics, that becomes the main ideology of the Democratic Party.

It is also the focus of History 74L, which I'll be teaching next semester on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00. So if you want to learn about that, short plug while we're here. Which is not to denigrate it. But what you have is two different forms of political thought that are very much out of balance with each other.

When we think about *Kitzmiller versus Dover*-- oh, it's on the top. It was in the right place in my notes. That's why I couldn't find it. That makes much more sense.