The Disinformation Age The Collapse of Liberal Democracy in the United States Eric Cheyfitz

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Introduction

- 1. Disinformation: The End of Ideology
- 2. Narratives of the Nation
- 3. The Palimpsest of History: William Apess's Anti-Jeremiad Jeremiad
- 4. The End of Innocence: Jeremiah Wright's Anti-Jeremiad Jeremiad
- 5. Barack Obama and the Erasure of Race
- 6. The Confidence State
- 7. Melville's The Confidence Man: His Masquerade
- 8. Thinking from a Different Place: What is a Just Society?

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The Disinformation Age

The Collapse of Liberal Democracy in the United States

Eric Cheyfitz, Cornell University, USA

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The Disinformation Age, beginning in the present and going back to the American colonial period, constructs an original historical explanation for the current political crisis and the reasons the two major political parties cannot address it effectively. Commentators inside and outside academia have described this crisis. with various terms — income inequality, the disappearance of the middle-class, the collapse of the two-party system, and the emergence of a corporate oligarchy. While this book uses such terminology, it uniquely provides a unifying explanation for the current state of the union by analyzing the seismic rupture of political rhetoric from political reality used within discussion of these issues. In advancing this analysis, the book provides a term for this rupture, Disinformation, which it defines not as planned propaganda but as the inevitable failure of the language of American Exceptionalism to correspond to actual history, even as the two major political parties continue to deploy this language.

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