In the generally affluent decades from 1950 through the rise of the century, commercialized leisure, increasingly contested by multimedia and entertainment, expanded its reach. "Television viewing exploded; the film and recording industries and professional sports thrived; computer video games diverted the young; and the travel industry flourished. With the introduction of jet aircraft, foreign travel became an affordable activity, and the Great American Road Trip became accessible to a broader range of Americans. The nation's first theme park, Disneyland, opened in Anaheim, California, in 1955, followed by scores of others, including Hersheypark in Pennsylvania, Nashville's Opryland, and the Six Flags chain. Thousands cued at Branson, Missouri, to see aging pop stars perform and later Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida (1971), became enormously popular. By the 1990s, leisure was big business in America.

Not all leisure was commercialized, however. Late-nineteenth-century Americans continued to find more small-scale diversions, from camping, hiking, and biking to such age-old pursuits as reading, gardening, and picnicking with family and friends. They joined in community- and church-based recreational excursions to local parks, public gardens, zoos, and engaged in such recreational activities as bowling, skiing, and competing in amateur baseball or soccer leagues. Despite a mass-culture explosion and commercial trappings, leisure in America as the twentieth century ended remained highly diverse and resisted easy generalization.

[See also Amusement Parks and Theme Parks; Automobile Racing; Automotive Industry; Basketball; Bicycles and Bicycling; Boxing; Chautauqua Movement; Dance; Football; Immigration; Minstrelsy; Music; Musical Theater; Popular Culture; Puritanism; Quilts and Quilting; Shopping Centers and Malls; Theater; World Fairs and Expositions.]


—Paul S. Boyer

LEOPOLD, ALDO (1887–1948), conservationist, writer, and philosopher. Following graduation from Yale University's Forest School in 1909, Leopold joined the U.S. Forest Service, where he became a leading innovator in soil conservation, range management, recreation planning, game management, and wilderness protection. Concerned by the accelerating loss of the nation's wild lands, he led efforts that in 1924 resulted in the designation of the nation's first wilderness area within the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. After 1928, Leopold devoted himself to the development of wildlife management as a distinct field, first as an independent researcher (1928–1933), then as professor at the University of Wisconsin (1933–1937). His fundamental contribution in the 1930s was to apply concepts from the science of ecology to the management of wildlife populations and habitats. His text *Game Management* (1933) was the first in the field.

Through his many nontechnical writings, including policy statements, editorials, and nature essays, Leopold defined a new approach to conservation, one that sought to blend elements of older utilitarian and preservational sentiments with the broader context of contemporary ecological understanding. In the first years of his life, Leopold compiled many of his essays into a collection published posthumously as *A Sand County Almanac* (1949). *Sand County* became, along with Rachel *Carson's Silent Spring* (1962), a basic text for the later envi-

romental movement. Especially influential was its capstone essay, "The Land Ethic," in which Leopold argued for an expansion of the sphere of human ethical concern to include the natural world. Leopold's writings provided important foundations for such emerging interdisciplinary fields as environmental history, environmental ethics, environmental economics, restoration ecology, and conservation biology.

[See also Conservation Movement; Environmentalism; Forestry and Forestry; Muir, John.]


—Curt Meine

LESHIANSM. See Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement.

LEWIS, JOHN L. (1880–1969), labor leader. Born in Lucas, Iowa, to Welsh immigrant parents. Lewis as a young man wandered the West and attempted to establish several businesses. He became a coal miner and in 1908 moved to Panama, Illinois. A year later, Lewis became president of the United Mine Workers (UMW) local. Thereafter, he rose rapidly in the labor movement, becoming in 1917 a UMW vice president. Lewis's political ability and his acrid handling of the 1919 coal strike won him the union's presidency in 1920.

The union over which Lewis assumed command soon entered an era of decline. Ironically, as the power of the UMW eroded in the 1920s, Lewis's personal power in the union grew. With Franklin Delano *Roosevelt's election in 1932, Lewis rebuilt the UMW. In 1923, he launched a spectacular organizing drive that brought over 90 percent of the nation's coal miners into the UMW. Lewis emerged as the dominant labor leader of the 1930s and an effective advocate of aggressive unionism. In 1935, with the passage of the pro-labor *National Labor Relations Act*, he created the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) within the *American Federation of Labor (AFL)* to unionize workers in the mass production industries. As president of the CIO (which was expelled from the AFL in 1938 and changed its name to the *Congress of Industrial Organizations*), Lewis helped unionize the *automotive industry*, the *iron and steel industry*, and others. At first allied with Roosevelt and the New Deal, Lewis broke with the president during the 1940 election. Roosevelt's reelection caused Lewis to resign as president of the CIO and in 1942 to withdraw the UMW from the CIO.

During *World War II*, Lewis played the militant loner. In 1943, he led a series of unpopular strikes. After the war, Lewis led more massive coal strikes that spurred the passage of the 1947 *Taft-Hartley Act*. In the 1950s, he shifted from militancy to accommodation with mine owners. He transformed himself into an industrial statesman, urging trade policies that would increase coal exports, building a string of union hospitals, and seeking the passage of the first Federal Mine Safety Law. When he retired from his union presidency in 1960, Lewis left an alluring image and a debilitated, corrupt union.

[See also Labor Movements; Mining New Deal Era, The; Strikes and Industrial Conflict.]


—Warren Van Tine

LEWIS, SINCLAIR (1885–1951), novelist. Although he attended Yale, Harry Sinclair Lewis, a native of Sauk Centre, Minnesota, always remained something of a provincial midwesterner. Deeply insecure about his personal appearance, ill at ease among intellectuals, prone to alcoholic binges, and in and out of well-publicized marriages, he remained a perennial critical problem, an uncouth realist in an age of uncertain modernism. Perhaps the most gifted mimetic in American letters, he was best at seeming to caricature small-town businessmen and religious hucksters.

Although cosmopolitan eastern critics *Mencken* assumed that he shared their cosmopolitan wasteland west of the Hudson River, Lewis's sympathy to those he only appeared to satirize (1913) was based on Sauk Centre, and about a Republican real-estate broker in the farmers' city of Zenith, entered the language as the antithesis of American culture and the mean values. Both novels became best-sellers, secu-

[See also Literature: Since World War Urbanization.]


LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION (1804–1806) message to Congress, President Thomas Jefferson for an expedition up the Missouri River and with the *Louisiana Purchase*, later that year on even greater significance. Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis (1774–1809) to lead the selected as his partner a fellow officer, William Clark (1770–1834). More than forty men, including Lewis composed the Corps of Discovery as it started in a keelboat and three canoes on 14 May 1804. The expedition reached present-day cities where the members established their own Mandan.

In April 1805, Lewis and Clark sent the last before their journey's west took, accompanying Shoshone woman, Sacagawea (1786–1812), a war shoochoosed by multilingual Indians. They reached the source of the Missouri River, the Blackfoot, and the Bitterroot Mountain. At the Clearwater River they encountered Nez Perce, built canoes, and ascended the Snake, and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific, v on 18 November 1805, they named their west.

In late March 1806, the corps started to the west of the Rockies and the expedition split, Clark to the east as they had come and Lewis's group advance to the Falls of the Missouri, where the journals on 23 September 1806, after an absence of three months. The Corps of Discovery arrived at St. Louis.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition, which published journals and records, was one of the annals of world exploration. It left an all-water route to the Pacific and helped among the vast extent of the Louisiana Purchase.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST.