
The National Endowment
for the Humanities
presents the

Jefferson Lecture
in the Humanities

The National Endowment
for the Humanities
Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, May 2, 1990

Hoover Institution
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Thursday, May 10, 1990



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Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities

East Coast Program

Departmental Auditorium
Washington, D.C.
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West Coast Program

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National Endowment for the Humanities

East Coast Program

Welcome and Remarks

Lynne V. Cheney

Chairman

National Endowment for the Humanities

Introduction

Hillel Fradkin

Vice President for Program

The Bradley Foundation

The Nineteenth

Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities

Bernard Lewis

“Western Civilization: A View from the East”

Special Presentation

Reception

National Museum of American History

Hoover Institution
Stanford University

West Coast Program

Welcome
John Raisian
Acting Director
Hoover Institution

Opening Remarks
Lynne V. Cheney
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities

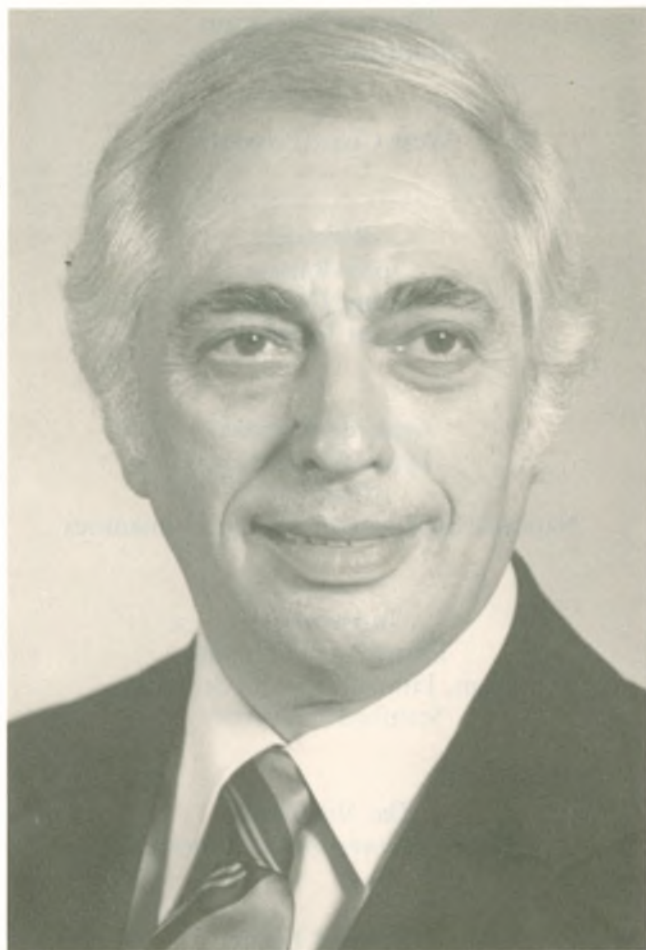
Introduction
Ewart A.C. Thomas
Dean, Humanities and Sciences
Stanford University

*The Nineteenth
Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities*

Bernard Lewis
“Western Civilization: A View from the East”

Special Presentation

Reception
Stauffer Auditorium



ROBERT P. MATTHEWS

Bernard Lewis

“No human being is free from human failings, among them loyalties and prejudices which may color his perception and presentation of history,” writes Bernard Lewis in *History—Remembered, Recovered, Invented* (1975). “The essence of the critical scholarly historian is that he is aware of this fact, and instead of indulging his prejudices seeks to identify and correct them.”

Lewis has spent more than five decades in his pursuit of historical truth, never deviating from his mission as a historian and Islamicist. From 1949 to 1974, Lewis taught history in the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies. Recognized as the ranking scholar of Islamic and Middle Eastern history, he is the Cleveland E. Dodge Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. He has also been coeditor of *The Encyclopedia of Islam* and a member of Princeton’s Institute for Advanced Study.

He has taught and lectured at a number of other colleges and universities including the University of Chicago; Collège de France; Collegio de Mexico; University of California, Los Angeles and Berkeley; Columbia University; Indiana University; and other academic institutions in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

Lewis has written and edited more than twenty books in the field. *The Emergence of Modern Turkey* (1961) is

regarded as the opening of the study of modern Turkey. Other works include *The Arabs in History* (1950), *The Middle East and the West* (1964), *The Assassins: A Radical Sect in Islam* (1967), *The Muslim Discovery of Europe* (1982), *The Jews of Islam* (1984), *The Political Language of Islam* (1988), and the soon to be published *Race and Slavery in the Middle East: An Historical Enquiry*. His books have been translated into nineteen foreign languages, including Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew.

A prolific writer, Lewis has written articles for *Foreign Affairs*, *Commentary*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and other journals and periodicals.

Born in London in 1916, Lewis received his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees from the University of London and later earned his *diplôme des études sémitiques* from the Université de Paris. He moved to the United States in 1974 to become a professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, where he served until his retirement in 1986.

Among his many honors and awards, Lewis has been named a member of the American Philosophical Society, the British Academy, the Turkish Historical Society, and the Institut d’Egypte. Lewis received the Citation of Honor from the Turkish Ministry of Culture in 1973. He holds five honorary degrees.

The Jefferson Lecture

In 1972 the National Endowment for the Humanities established the Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities as the highest official award the federal government bestows for distinguished intellectual achievement in the humanities. The lecture provides the opportunity for an outstanding thinker to explore, in a public forum, matters of broad concern in the humanities and to affirm the relationship between the great works of the humanities and the intellectual, moral, and political traditions of our civilization. The Jefferson lecturer is chosen each year by the National Council on the Humanities.

Previous Lecturers

1972

The first Jefferson lecturer, *Lionel Trilling*, in his address, "Mind and the Modern World," examined contemporary culture in relation to the humanities.

1973

Erik H. Erikson, in the second lecture, "Dimensions of a New Identity," examined the American identity as it evolved during Jefferson's lifetime and into contemporary society.

1974

In the third lecture, "Democracy and Poetry," *Robert Penn Warren* probed poetry's role in a modern industrial society with special attention to the concept of self.

1975

Paul A. Freund, in the fourth lecture, "Liberty: The Great Disorder of Speech," focused on the benefit of freedom of speech and of the press, as well as on the responsibilities of those who exercise these freedoms.

1976

The fifth Jefferson lecturer, *John Hope Franklin*, explored "Racial Equality in America," the foundations of racism and its implications for contemporary society. Franklin spoke in Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

1977

The sixth Jefferson Lecture, "The Writer and His Country Look Each Other Over," was *Saul Bellow's* nostalgic recollection of his growth as a writer in Chicago during the Great Depression. The two-part lecture was given in Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

1978

C. Vann Woodward, in the seventh lecture, "Europe's America," addressed historical and contemporary European views of America. He gave his lecture in Washington, D.C., and Seattle.

1979

Edward Shils, in the eighth lecture, "Render unto Caesar..." discussed the reciprocity of rights and duties among the government, society, and the universities. He delivered his lecture in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Austin.

1980

Barbara Tuchman presented her lecture, the ninth in the series, on "Mankind's Better Moments," examining those rare times in world history when humans were at their best in creating and developing a better life. Tuchman spoke in Washington, D.C., and London.

1981

Gerald Holton delivered the tenth Jefferson Lecture, "Where Is Science Taking Us?," in Washington, D.C., and Boston. Holton examined the historical relationships between the humanities and the sciences and the dependence of science on value judgments.

1982

Emily T. Vermeule presented the eleventh Jefferson Lecture, "Greeks and Barbarians: The Classical Experience in the Larger World," in Washington D.C. Her lecture, illustrated with slides, discussed the significance of archaeological discoveries.

1983

Jaroslav Pelikan, the twelfth Jefferson lecturer, delivered a two-part lecture, "The Vindication of Tradition," in which he examined "Tradition as History" and "Tradition as Heritage." He gave the lectures in Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

1984

The thirteenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Humanities and the Defense of a Free Society," was delivered by *Sidney Hook* in Washington, D.C., and New York City. Hook examined the problem of maintaining allegiance to democratic ideals in the face of rising worldwide totalitarianism.

1985

In the fourteenth Jefferson Lecture, "Literature in a Technological Age," *Cleanth Brooks* claimed that the age of technology has obscured the importance of literature and given rise to a synthetic prose that is "gutless, bloodless, and thoroughly inhuman." He delivered the lecture in Washington, D.C., and New Orleans.

1986

Leszek Kolakowski delivered the fifteenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Idolatry of Politics," in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Acknowledging the legacy of the Enlightenment, Kolakowski cautioned against converting political commitments into moral principles, thus "fabricate(ing) gods for an ad hoc use in a political power game."

1987

In the sixteenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Intellectual World of the Founding Fathers," *Forrest McDonald* paid tribute to the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution by examining the intellectual origins that shaped America's founding. He presented the lecture in Washington, D.C., and Lawrence, Kansas.

1988

Tracing the American communitarian state from its beginnings in World War I through the major events of the twentieth century and contemporary America, *Robert Nisbet* delivered the seventeenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Present Age and the State of Community," in Washington, D.C.

1989

In the eighteenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Fateful Rift: The San Andreas Fault in the Modern Mind," *Walker Percy* showed how modern science fails to explain uniquely human behavior and proposed a new "science of man" that focuses on the way language links the mind with the physical world. Percy delivered the lecture in Washington, D.C.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency established by Congress in 1965 to support scholarship, research, education, and public programs in the humanities.

By definition, the humanities include, but are not limited to, the study of the following disciplines: history; philosophy; languages; linguistics; literature; archaeology; jurisprudence; the history, theory, and criticism of the arts; ethics; comparative religion; and those aspects

of the social sciences that employ historical or philosophical approaches.

Grants are made through five divisions — Education Programs, Fellowships and Seminars, General Programs, Research Programs, and State Programs—and two offices, the Office of Challenge Grants and the Office of Preservation. Responsibility for grant awards rests by law with the Chairman of the Endowment, who is advised by the National Council on the Humanities, a board of twenty-six distinguished private citizens.

Departmental Auditorium

Completed during the spring of 1935, the auditorium is unique in its construction. For acoustical purposes, the walls and massive columns are faced with synthetic stones composed of crushed oyster shells. Formerly known as the Connecticut Wing, the auditorium is located on Constitution Avenue between the U.S. Customs Service and the Interstate Commerce Commission. Designed by

architect Arthur Brown, the three structures provide a single dominant expanse of monumental classical architecture along Constitution Avenue. Perhaps the most important event held in the Departmental Auditorium was the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949. For this historic event, President Harry S. Truman welcomed the secretaries of state or the foreign ministers of twelve nations.

Stanford University

Stanford University was founded by Leland and Jane Stanford in 1885 as a memorial to their only child, Leland Jr., who died of typhoid in 1884 when he was fifteen years old. The university is on the site of the old Palo Alto Stock Farm, a world-famous horse-breeding ranch operated by the Stanfords in the late nineteenth century. One of California's most prominent citizens, Leland Stanford was president of the Central Pacific Railroad and drove the golden spike at Promontory, Utah, completing the first transcontinental railroad. He served as governor of California during the Civil War and was a U.S. senator when he died in 1893.

The university is organized into seven schools: earth science, education, engineering, graduate school of business, humanities and sciences, law, and medicine. Among the 1,315 faculty members, there are nine Nobel laureates and five Pulitzer Prize winners, as well as 130 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and twelve winners of the National Medal of Science.

The university is currently in the midst of a centennial celebration with 1985-1991 designated as "The Centennial Years."

Hoover Institution

The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University is a center for advanced study in domestic and international affairs. Founded by President Herbert Hoover in 1919, it contains one of the largest private archives and most complete libraries in the world on economic, political, and social change in the twentieth century, as well as a major scholarly press. Affiliated with the institution are five Nobel laureates and a host of distinguished statesmen. More than 100 resident scholars examine major issues in economics, political science, sociology, education, and history.

Located on the Stanford campus, the Hoover Tower and adjacent buildings house a library of approximately 1.6 million volumes and an archive consisting of 4,000 collections. In addition to Stanford students, faculty, and resident staff, users of the library and archives include scholars from throughout the United States and other nations who come to conduct research in the outstanding area collections on Africa, the Middle East, East Asia, Russia, Latin America, North America, and Eastern and Western Europe.

National Museum of American History

The National Museum of American History, authorized by Congress in 1954 and opened to the public in 1964, was designed in a modified classical style, faced with rose-white Tennessee marble.

The museum's basic mission is to illuminate, through collections, exhibitions, research, publications, and educational programs, the entire history of the United States, including the

external influences that have helped to shape national character. Among the notable items exhibited are the desk used by Thomas Jefferson in drafting the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Edison's phonograph, the John Bull locomotive, and a Model T Ford. The museum has the responsibility for the care of more than 16 million objects that the Smithsonian Institution has acquired during the last century.

Special Presentation

Writings by Thomas Jefferson, edited by Jeffersonian scholar Merrill D. Peterson, will be presented to Bernard Lewis by Lynne V. Cheney, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through this gift, the Library of America has chosen to honor the Jefferson lecturer and the intellectual and civic virtues exemplified by Thomas Jefferson.

The library, a nonprofit corporation that has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, publishes the works of America's foremost writers in a uniform series of hardcover editions. *Writings by Thomas Jefferson* is the twentieth volume in its collection.

"...as long as we may think as we will, and speak as we think, the condition of man will proceed in improvement."

—Jefferson: *Writings*
Letter to William Green Munford
June 18, 1799

"Of those recorded by historians few incidents have been attended with such circumstances as to excite in any high degree this sympathetic emotion of virtue. We are therefore wisely framed to be as warmly interested for a fictitious as for a real personage. The field of imagination is thus laid open to our use and lessons may be formed to illustrate and carry home to the heart every moral rule of life. Thus a lively and lasting sense of filial duty is more effectually impressed on the mind of a son or daughter by reading King Lear, than by all the dry volumes of ethics, and divinity that ever were written."

—Jefferson: *Writings*
Letter to Robert Skipwith
August 3, 1771

"I think by far the most important bill in our whole code is that for the diffusion of knowledge among the people. No other sure foundation can be devised, for the preservation of freedom and happiness."

—Jefferson: *Writings*
Letter to George Wythe
August 13, 1786

Acknowledgments

Demonstrating a shared commitment to excellence and achievement in education and scholarship, the following donors join the National Endowment for the Humanities in presenting the nineteenth annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. The Endowment gratefully acknowledges their cooperation and generous support.

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The May/June issue of *Humanities*, the bimonthly review of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is available free at the entrance. This edition features a conversation between Bernard Lewis and Chairman Lynne V. Cheney.

The Jefferson Lecture will be broadcast nationwide on National Public Radio in May. Check local listings for dates and times.



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Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities

“Western Civilization: A View from the East”

by

Bernard Lewis

Wednesday, May 2, 1990

8 p.m.

The Departmental Auditorium
Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, Northwest
in the City of Washington

Dessert reception to follow
at the National Museum of American History
Constitution Avenue

Admit one

No reserved seats

Admission by ticket only
