

WEST VIRGINIA: A STATE OF CONTRASTS

SEMINAR: SPRING 2022

ITEMS OF INTEREST AND POSSIBLE PRESENTATION TOPICS

HISTORY:

Formation of the Appalachian Plateau: Geology of Mountains & Rivers

Pre-European Habitation of “West Virginia”

Exploration and Settlement of Colonial “West Virginia”

Life in the State of Western Virginia 1783 – 1863

Creation of the State of West Virginia: 1860 – 1863

Hatfield and McCoy Feud

Harpers Ferry: John Brown’s Raid

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT:

Brine/Salt Extraction

Stone and Sand Industries

Timber Products

Iron, Steel & Metals Industries

Bituminous Coal Mining: Shaft, Surface, Bit & Auger

Coal Products Derivatives

Oil & Natural Gas Extraction

Chemical Industry: Dow, Dupont, Union Carbide

Environmental Degradation: Timber, Mining, Chemical Wastes

Glass Manufacture: Industrial & Artistic

River Transportation: Ohio, Kanawha, Monongahela, Big Sandy

Development of Railroad Network: B & O, C& O, N & W, Virginian

Strikes and Unrest in Coal Industry

Industrial Decline and Depopulation

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICIANS:

Senator Robert Byrd

Senator Joe Manchin

Radical Political Change: Solid Democratic to Overwhelmingly Red

TOURISM:

Spas & Resorts: Greenbriar Inn, White Sulfur Springs; Stonewall Resort

Ski Resorts:

White Water Rafting and Kayaking & recreational boating

State Parks & National Forests

Hunting, Fishing, Camping & Hiking

Recreational Sports: Golf & Tennis, Hang Gliding

Museums: Huntington Art, WV State, Demonstration Coal Mine

CULTURAL & ETHNICAL ISSUES:

Immigration Source

Ethnic Festivals

Religious Distribution

Country Music

Appalachian Cuisine

WV Authors: Pearl Buck, Henry Louis Gates

HEALTH CARE:

State Delivery Systems

Opioid Crisis

Black Lung & Other Occupational Conditions

SCIENCE:

Green Bank Observatory & Radio Telescope