Pre-Contact Indian America
“struck with a degree of astonishment” (1810)

Indians expected only “short and brutish lives, void of hope for any future.” (1974)

The Americas before Columbus were “empty of mankind and its works.”
Indian societies:
--not static isolates lying outside the ebb and flow of human history
--products of a complex set of historical forces, both local and wide ranging
--accustomed to economic and political flux
--accustomed to absorbing new peoples
Gloriana emphasizes:
--European measures of importance
--complex Indian civilizations
--elaborate technological skills
--impressive city-states
--European benchmarks for success like large structures; displays of monetary wealth; market morality/values/systems;
--faith in the rationality of science
--written word, respect for the written tradition instead of the oral tradition
--urbanism
--respect for hierarchy
Romantic Primitivism

emphasizes:

--simplicity
--non-technical traditions
--indigenous intuition
--wisdom of custom rather than scientific method

Exchange

--material goods, marriage partners, resources, labor, ideas, techniques, religious practices
--for individuals and communities
--prestige enhancement wealth accumulation

Southwest and indicators of a “complex” society:

--Anasazi and large terraced multi-storied and multi-room buildings

--12-mile stretch of the canyon; twelve large planned towns on the north side; 200 to 350 villages on the south
--irrigation canals, dams, and hillside terracing
--ceramics industry, use of woven textiles for clothing and a complex political and social organization
--primacy of towns