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**The Landscape of Capitalism: Using Thomas Cole to Understand the Market Revolution**

**Materials:** Thomas Cole -View from Mount Holyoke Northampton, Massachusetts after a Thunderstorm- The Oxbow, 1836, excerpt from Charles Sellers' *The Market Revolution*, excerpt from Christopher Clark's *The Roots of Rural Capitalism*, Evaluation sheet

**Objective:** Students will be able to understand differing conceptions of the market revolution by analyzing and evaluating Thomas Cole's painting View from Mount Holyoke Northampton, Massachusetts after a Thunderstorm- The Oxbow, 1836 and an excerpt from Christopher Clark's *The Roots of Rural Capitalism*.

**Vocabulary:** kulturkampf, market revolution, wage labor, arminianism, antinomianism

**Activity:** Students will have read for homework an excerpt from Charles Seller's *The Market Revolution* explaining the idea of kulturkampf in antebellum America. Students should have an understanding from their reading and previous discussion of Seller's distinction between antinomianism and arminianism.

1- Teacher will lead discussion on Sellers reading. Students will answer questions about the text.

2- Students will be placed in groups to evaluate Thomas Cole's painting. They will attend to how Cole's work could have emerged during the market revolution. They will ask how Cole's work might or might not be reflective of Seller's idea of the market revolution. Groups will complete a collective worksheet answering these questions.

3- As a class, we will read together a brief excerpt from Clark's *The Roots of Rural Capitalism*. Students will annotate their text as we read aloud. Since Clark's work focuses on the same Connecticut River Valley that is represented by Cole's painting, it provides an excellent companion to the Oxbow painting. Students will be asked to distill the argument of the piece which states that by the 1840s almost all residents of the Connecticut River Valley were involved to a significant degree in monetary market exchange.

4- Students will write a short response that incorporates all three sources (Cole, Clark, and Sellers) and addresses the question- "How did Americans view the market revolution in antebellum America?"

5- As a class we will discuss student responses and the teacher will ask follow up questions.

**Assessment:**

Students will be assessed on their participation in discussion

Student responses will be collected and assessed.