

Introduction

POLITICS! is the subject of the thirteenth annual Western Reserve Studies Symposium. Begun in 1985 and designed to provide a forum for students and scholars of northeastern Ohio's history and culture, the objective of the symposia is to advance the exploration of the distinctive aspects of Ohio's Western Reserve.

The 1998 Symposium hosted by the American Studies Program at Case Western Reserve University took its subject from a suggestion that emerged following a Master's thesis defense related to the political issues surrounding the settlement of the Western Reserve. The decision for **POLITICS!** was made on the basis of the timeliness of the subject as it applies to the 200 year life of the region and particularly as viewed from the perspective of national, state and local politics.

The following persons assisted in planning the Symposium:

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Our exploration of **POLITICS!** in the Western Reserve will be guided by scholars, authors and commentators. Included here is a program for the Symposium in its entirety, a list of presenters, their papers and abstracts in the order of presentation.

Gladys Haddad
Director
Western Reserve Studies Symposium

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