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The Impact of Emerson's Transcendentalism on Modern America

*An Extended Essay Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
the Master's Degree in Anglo-Saxon Literature and Civilization*

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my parents for raising me to believe that everything is possible.

To my husband Amine, who really encouraged me to fly toward my dreams.

To my sisters Sara, Rafika, Amaria and Malika and my brother Mohamed.

And to all my friends especially Hayet who shared me this work.

Asma Yahi

Dedication

I dedicate this work to my parents for their efforts in upbringing me, in giving me the chance to be in this level, for their efforts in raising and supporting me financially and morally throughout my life, thank you my beloved parents.

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Abstract

This work emphasizes the impact of American transcendentalism as one of the influential movements on modern times which was a reason of the emergence of new way of thinking. This thesis includes a historical background of American transcendentalism which is a philosophical, theological, and a literary movement of the 19th century; a movement that supports individualism in everything and the power of thought, holding a great sense of self-trust and self-confidence. The study shows how important originality and uniqueness is in order to form a real sense of life and to leave peacefully with an independent personality. In this work a focused attention will be on the work of Ralph Waldo Emerson the essay *Self-Reliance* which examined people's strong personality, through an analysis that draws a parallel between the movement of transcendentalism in the 19th century and modern times, by examining the historical development of both traditions and discovering the common beliefs and points of convergence of those eras, in addition to how transcendentalism effected other decades. The aim from this research is to point out how transcendentalism still exists right now.

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General Introduction

The United States of America has a rich history of disorder and transformation; it was famous of its major events and movements that made a great change in the American life. The united states have seen a lot of changes through decades, and each decade characterized by specific events and a new lifestyle.

The 19th century in America witnessed a large number of events and movements that changed the American norms, behaviors, thoughts and even the way of thinking. During this period of time, transcendentalism began as a philosophical movement in the mid-1830s in the eastern Massachusetts, this movement was based on logic rather than imagination; it came to transform ideas into concrete actions, and increasing from the fields of religion, education, literature, philosophy, and social reform.

Transcendentalism testified the emergence of many writers among them: Ralph Waldo Emerson who was the father of transcendental movement, he believed that God and man have related to nature, and every man should be individual and have self-confidence. Emerson, in *Self-Reliance* essay, talked about such important topics in politics, society, and culture, he also spoke about conformity, non-conformity, freedom, individuality, peace and hope. In this wave, people started to influence by Emerson's words, they began react against their rights and demand equality between men and women. Although, this movement was limited, its waves continued to spread through decades, and Emerson's ideas stabilized in people's minds and changed their way of thinking.

In this work, the focus will be on Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Self-Reliance* essay (1841), and the interest question is: How does transcendentalism influence the modern American times, starting from the sixties to this day?

To achieve the objective of the study, the analysis will be on Emerson's ideas in *Self-Reliance* and compare it with those of the sixties; the focus will be on politics, culture and society. Finally, it attempts to prove that transcendentalism still exist in the present with the example of presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

General Introduction

This research work is divided into two chapters: the first one entitled the 19th century Transcendentalism; it is about transcendentalism, its origin, and the reasons for the rise of this movement. This chapter also spoke about the main concepts of *Self-Reliance* essay and its writer Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The second chapter entitled the impact of Emerson's transcendentalism on the development of decades through *Self-Reliance*. Its aim is to analyze some ideas and thoughts of the American politics, society, and culture in the sixties and make a comparison to Emerson's thoughts through *Self-Reliance*. The focus will be on presidents in the sixties such as President John F. Kennedy as well as President Ronald Regan in the ninetieth. Also culture which will be based on some singers who were influenced by Emerson's ideas, and talked about movements that happened during the sixties such as the Hippie Movement and the Civil Rights Movements. At the end of the research, it attempts to be proved that transcendentalism still exist nowadays by giving examples such as presidents Obama and Trump.

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Chapter One: 19th century Transcendentalism

1.1. Introduction

Throughout history, the American society has seen a lot of changes that make it very special and unique; these changes influenced the American thoughts, beliefs and ideas. Transcendentalism is a major philosophical movement that considered much of American thinking in the 1830s, it is characterized by its norms and attitudes which changed people's mind. The purpose of this chapter is to learn more about transcendentalism, its origin, the reasons that made it emerge and its leader Ralph Waldo Emerson who had a great impact on the American thinking through his essay *Self-Reliance* which is based on self-confidence, individuality, conformity and non-conformity. This made many people think more about their rights and their freedom, which was reflected on the American culture in the sixties.

1.2. Definition of Transcendentalism

Like any period of time, which characterized by a specific culture and beliefs in any country; America witnessed some movements that changed the way of thinking of people in the 19th century. Through these changes people developed their views that free them from slavery and strict orders. Philosophers start to react and work for the spread of a new way of thinking under the name of transcendentalism. Transcendentalists believed that God, man, and nature are interrelated to shape the concept of life. (Emerson 07).

Transcendentalism is an American legacy and a philosophical movement that happened in the United States of America during the 19th century, it is a mixture of new ideas in literature, culture, religion, education and society. It took place during the 1820s in the eastern United States and exactly in New England. It flourished from almost the mid 1830 to the 1860s and also viewed as a step toward the spiritual, and thus breaking the growing materialism of American society at the time.

Transcendentalism is an academic word that describes the idea that every man and woman should have knowledge about themselves and this knowledge should not be based on logic and science, but on intuition and imagination. In the early nineteenth century transcendentalism considered as a conventional movement of Unitarianism

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which was the dominant religion in Boston that believed in God and his unitary. Kurtz stated that:

The movement was rather conservative in its metaphysics and epistemology, but it was decidedly liberal in its morals and politics. It was fairly inchoate movement – literary, religious, political, and philosophical distinguishable more perhaps by what it opposed than by what it supported. (Kurtz 26).

In religion, transcendentalism was born out of religion, the idea of intellect that stated that mind and observation of nature would determine the existence of God. It began as a religious concept and radicalized in the minds, ideas and thoughts of American democracy. It is also represented an idealistic system of thought such as strength, courage, self-confidence and independence and focused on the idea that man should be individual, the spiritual center of the universe and happiness depends on self-realization.

In politics, transcendentalism helped indirectly to build a strong policy and form many aspects of United States politics; it fulfilled great steps in affecting politicians and leaders through written work. *The Dial* is one of this works that helped to shape morals and ethics which really attracted the Politicians.

Moreover, literature played an important role in transcendentalism because most of transcendentalists began to express their ideas about transcendentalism, and wrote these thoughts in books such as Ralph Waldo Emerson who was the most famous transcendentalists at that time with his works; *Nature*, and *Self-Reliance*; Henry David Thoreau was another figure who wrote the famous *Civil Disobedience*. Both of these works affected people's mind because it has shown the importance of transcendentalist philosophy.

Education also was one of the many reforms like transcendentalism that took place in the prewar period. During this period, reform in education was greatly influenced by ethics, morals, rationalism, idealism, patriotism, and among others.

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In society, Transcendentalists believed that society was about conforming which focused on free thinking, independence and self-confidence. Transcendentalism is a new way of thinking that changed people's ideas and the influences of life in the United States.

Among transcendentalist's core beliefs was an ideal spiritual state that transcends the physical and empirical and only realized through the individual's intuition, rather than through the doctrines of established Religions. Prominent transcendentalists included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Orestes Bronson, William Henry Channing, James Freeman Clarke, Christopher Pearse Cranch, Convers Francis, Margaret Fuller, Frederick Henry Hedge, Elizabeth Peabody, George Ripley, Amos Bronson Alcott, and Jones Veer.

1.3. The Origin of Transcendentalism

Transcendentalism believed in many things like: the unity of God (all religions were expressions of the same faith). The divinity of man (man was God, guided by immanent spirit in himself) and the sanctity of nature.

Transcendentalism developed first among New England's united groups, who left Calvinist Orthodoxy on two sides: they believed in the importance and effectiveness of human endeavor, rather than the most destructive, perpetual image of inevitable human corruption; they emphasized in unity instead of the "Trinity" of God. Most atheists saw that Jesus was in some way inferior to God the Father but still greater than man, although he was endowed with special authority. The Unitarians preacher, William Ellery Channing (1780-1842), directed the Orthodox Synod as a religion of fear, and maintained that Jesus saved mankind from sin, not only from punishment.

Transcendentalism was closely related to Unitarianism and associated with Harvard and Boston University in New England. It was not a rejection of Unitarianism; but was born as a movement parallel to the ideas put forward by the Unit. Unitarianism, first, was the dominant religious movement which appeared in Boston in the early 19th

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century and started to develop in the Harvard University in the New England; where most transcendentalists were students. Unitarianism began as a reaction against Calvinism's influence on religious life. It was presented, thus depicting an optimistic religion that was influenced by philosophical enlightenment. The American transcendentalism cannot be understood out of the context of Unitarianism. Transcendentalists felt that something missing in Unitarianism and they should complete the gap and treat the problem, they are required to land their religion and philosophy in transcendence Principles that are not based on or can be fabricated before, are sensitive, but are derived of the inner, spiritual or mental essence of man. Emanuel Kant had called everyone shrewd knowledge that does not mean things but with a situation Knowing things. The transcendentalists were largely unversed with German Philosophy in the original, and relied primarily on the writings of Thomas Carlyle, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Victor Cousin, Germaine de Stael, and other English and French commentators for their knowledge of it. In contrast, they were intimately familiar with the English Romantics, and the transcendental movement may be partially described as a slightly later, American outgrowth of romanticism. Another major influence was the Mystical spiritualism of Emanuel Sweden. (Gura 91)

Also transcendentalists were Unitarians, who liberal in sentiments, turned Calvinism pessimism of optimism; God was love and fair, not arbitrary or retaliation. Man is not necessarily wrong but capable of moral virtue and goodness. The Unitarians also responded against the mechanical universe and the rational religion of Destin. Nature manifested the divine purpose, and man may know and appreciate its full beauty. But man must transcend ordinary understanding or experience, and his spirit must be in direct contact with divinity. This can be done largely without the benefit of clergy. The Unitarians, like Deists, would like to use the reason for the interpretation of the Bible, unlike Deists, many of the accepted revelation.

In response to Locke's concept of experience, there is a transcendental world that goes beyond appearances, and the ultimate reality that only reason and intuition can penetrate is to criticize reliance on knowledge based on experimental and scientific facts such evidence was only likely, and ended in doubt. The transcendentalists were

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the humanitarian workers who were deeply concerned with moral progress, with political, social and equality justice. Everyone has inherent dignity, which is also called for equality. Everyone has the capacity and the right to consult his own intuition. They fought against acceptance of injustice and defended liberalism in social work.

1.4. Transcendental Knowledge

Transcendental knowledge defines as a prior knowledge; it is considered as a meta-knowledge. Immanuel Kant pretended that transcendental argument is new concept of grounding the certainty of philosophy, science, and mathematics.

Kant argued that knowledge is possible; his main questions turned around what conditions make knowledge possible. What must the world be like? And what must the function of our minds be like, if human knowledge is to be possible?

Kant pretended transcendental aesthetic among those conditions of knowledge. Here the mind is the main composition which orders sense experience into a spacio-temporal sequence, and transcendental analytic; here the mind imposes classes like substance and reason onto experience. Thus transcendental knowledge allows understanding that the world is a form of series situated in time and place, related to causal relationships through one another.

Transcendental knowledge has a connection with metaphysics which is “the knowledge of nature of reality or being”; the intuitive sense should be present in a different form of knowledge which has distinctive bodies that contain the trappings of professional disciplines it can found in divisions in universities, schemes of libraries, and bookstores.(Blachowicz 09).

1.4.1. Individualism

The term Transcendentalism contains lot of ideas that affected American society in the 19th century, and one of its fundamental and essential ideas is “individualism”, this term insists that a human being must have his own personality without being under the influence of society, individualism emphasizes that actions and thoughts of a person

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must be independent. Among transcendentalists that were well known with the context of individualism are Emerson Ralph Waldo with his essay *Self-Reliance*, and Henry David Thoreau with his essay *Resistance to Civil Government*. They were considered as individualists; they acted against the social, religious, and cultural influence on individuals, to push them to be aware and deserve to be more important than everything, and to face and to act against government.(Thoreau 15).

In 1830's, many people in New England saw that the religion they adopted from their puritan ancestors had become too strict and impersonal. That's why Emerson's essay *Self-Reliance* comes into the picture, he supported that man should be responsible for his decisions and his personal life and encouraged people to rely on themselves, to be independent and free, he gave them a platform freedom to talk, live, and think. Emerson tried to make changes in society through new ideas, he believed that society prohibits people to express themselves and that their power was neglected, as a result people lost their self-confidence in expressing their own ideas; he stated that:

“It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude” (Emerson 31).

Thoreau was a student of Emerson; he was influenced by his way of thinking, they shared the same ideas; especially at the point of individualism. Thoreau adopted the same ideas of Emerson, but he focused more on the government and considered it as an obstacle for the dreamers, because society compels men to behave as machines in order to serve it under its strict orders. Thoreau struggled against government that obliged people to stay on the conformity's circle. Thoreau's main goal in his essay *Resistance to Civil Government* is that citizen must reacts against the unjust authority he stated that:

If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government, let it go, let it go: perchance it will wear smooth--certainly the machine will wear out. If the injustice has a spring, or a pulley, or a rope, or a crank,

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exclusively for itself, then perhaps you may consider whether the remedy will not be worse than the evil; but if it is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then I say, break the law. Let your life be a counter-friction to stop the machine. What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong, which I condemn (Thoreau 14).

Emerson and Thoreau considered that men have the right to do whatever they want and neglect what people think about them, they should be responsible for themselves and do not wait for the protection from the state, Emerson and Thoreau were supported by many thinkers, especially transcendentalists like: Emily Dickinson, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Wallace Stevens, Hart Crane, Walt Whitman, and Robert Frost. In addition to political leaders like Martin Luther king Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, their way of thinking influenced not only society, culture, and literature, but also politics in the United States.

1.4.2. Transcendental Idealism

The term transcendental idealism emerged by the 18th century by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant. In 1781, Immanuel Kant influenced society through his philosophy, and what is known as Kantian or transcendental idealism; Kantian idealism provides that people mind had a system that allows them to behave correctly. In addition to innate principles, the intuition of mind helps human to act, according to him the mind is the engine of the ideal thinking, he defined the concept of transcendental idealism in his book *The critique of pure reason* in two places: the first concept, is in the first edition version of the fourth paralogism where he distinguished between “transcendental idealism” (affirming the reality of a spiritual or ideal realm above that of material reality), and “empirical idealism” (affirming the precedence of sense perception over idealistic of spiritual speculation), which is related to Descartes, (Allison 111). Kant stated that:

The transcendental idealist, on the contrary, can be an empirical realist, hence, as he is called, a dualist, i.e., he can concede the existence of matter without

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going beyond mere self-consciousness and assuming Something more than the certainty of representations in me. (Kant 426).

The second place is in *The Antinomy of Pure Reason* where he defined transcendental idealism as:

...all objects of an experience possible for us, are nothing but appearances, i.e., mere representations, which as they are represented, as extended beings or series of alterations, have outside our thoughts no existence grounded in itself. (Kant 511).

The first passage defines the transcendental ideality of space and time, however, the second focuses on the objects offered in them, which means appearances, and the ideality of the last one is required by the previous one. Kant also defined his idealism as “formal” or “critical”, formal idealism which is a theory of priori forms under objects which can be known by human mind. However, critical idealism has a relationship with discursive cognition and known as a reversal of the conditions and limits. To understand more the concept of transcendental idealism we should focus on Kant’s account of how people perceive objects. The concept of idealism in American transcendentalism has a special relation to freedom, Consciousness and rationality are the most important spices in idealism, human beings are totally good at their core, and the main reason of corruption is society. (Allison 111).

1.5. The Reasons for the Rise of the Movement

Transcendentalism flourished at the height of literary and aesthetic romanticism in Europe and America, and inspired by romantic English and European writers, it was a form of American romanticism. According to many scientists there was no one precise cause for the beginning of transcendentalism, however Paul Boller stated that chance, coincidence and several events, thoughts and tendencies seemed to have converged in the 1830s in new England. Some of these were: The steady erosion of Calvinism, the

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progressive secularization of modern thought under the impact of science and technology, and the emergence of intelligentsia.

Transcendentalism arose due to several reasons:

First of all, it was a human philosophy; it established the individual right in the universe and adopted respect for human abilities. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the movement was in part a reaction against the increasing industrialization and against the human materialism that often accompanied it. The Progressive mill owner Francis Cabot Knoll introduced energy in the American textile industry at the Boston Manufacturing Company in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1814. When the nature of the work and the role of the work were undergoing tremendous change before their eyes and all close to the home, New England grew transcendental to maturity in the same Time.

Secondly, in the early nineteenth century, in the period before the rise of transcendentalism, satisfaction with the spiritual decrease of established religion was on the rise. Some early Unitarian ministers especially William Ellery Channing had turned away from harsh, unforgiving congregational Calvinism and moralized a more humanistic, emotionally expressive, and socially conscious form of religion. Many early Unitarians among them Channing had a shaped influence on the transcendentalists.

In addition, the tolerant are then regarded as a reaction to the extreme rationalism of the Enlightenment because many Liberal liberals remained under the influence of the 17th century including the English philosopher John Locke who explained the knowledge as cognizable and later introduced the knowledge as intuitive in direct opposition to Locke.

The dissatisfaction with the firm religion that influenced the transgressors was expressed strongly and clearly in the “Theological Seminary” in Emerson in 1838, in which Emerson asked:

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In how many churches, by how many prophets, tell me, is man-made sensible that hi is an infinite soul; that he is drinking forever the soul of God? Where now sounds the persuasion, that by its very melody imparadises my heart, and so affirms its own origin in heaven? (Emerson 18-19).

The third reason for the rising tide is the growing interest in the availability of foreign literature and philosophy after 1800. The Americans traveled and studied in Europe, some bringing books to America when they returned home. Joseph Stevens traveled to Buckminster to Europe in 1801, studied Bible scholarship and European methods of Bible interpretation, and returned home with about three thousand volumes purchased abroad. In 1815, George Ticknor and Edward Everett went to Europe to study; they traveled extensively, studied at the University of Gottingen in Germany, and returned to America to hold important academic positions at Harvard University. Emerson was specifically one of their students.

During this period, too, began translating into English from European business to make foreign thought and writing more available. The Rev. Moses Stuart, a professor at the Andover Theological Institute, translated the Greek and Hebrew grammar from German in the early 19th century, and translated many into English such as *Madame de Steele's de l'Immagine*. At the same time, Coleridge and Carlyle's writings were too famous; this is what led many in England and America to open the door to German thought and literature.

Finally, the most famous reason for the rise of the movement is the famous philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, who was considered as the father of transcendentalists and the center of the American transcendental movement.

1.6. Biography of Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ralph Waldo Emerson is an American essayist, lecturer and poet; he was born on May 25, 1803 in Boston, Massachusetts and died in April 27, 1882 in Concord. He was one of eight children of William Emerson, a Congregational minister and Ruth

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Haskins Emerson; his father was a clergyman, died on 12 May 1811 and his mother was forced to take in boarders to help make ends meet. Emerson began attending the Boston School of Latin in 1812 and graduated in 1817, the year he entered Harvard College, he had undetermined progress there, graduating thirty in a category of fifty-nine. He was delegated as minister in 1826 and directed to the Unified Church in 1829.

Port stated that:

Ralph, who lost his father when he was eight, seemed destined to continue the ministerial line, and passed in due course through Boston Latin School, Harvard College (1821), and a year of divinity studies at Harvard (which were interrupted by eye trouble). Approbated to preach in the fall of 1826, he became pastor of Boston's Second Church two and a half years later, but left that post in the fall of 1832 because he could no longer serve the Lord's Supper (communion) in good conscience. (Joel Porte 35).

Emerson was seen as a champion of individualism and a predictive critic of peer pressure. His writings were expensive and prolific. He gave more than 1,500 public lectures throughout the United States. In October 1817, he went to Harvard, where he occupied a poet of class, but did not emerge as a graduate student in the middle of his class. After graduation, he went to Florida in search of warmer climates for his sensitive health.

Emerson worked as a teacher at the school and later as a pastor at the Second Boston Church. But he gradually moved away from the religious and social beliefs of his contemporaries, formulating and articulating the Transcendentalism philosophy in his 1836 essay *Nature*. After this pioneering work, he delivered a speech titled *The American Scholar* in 1837, which was considered by Oliver Wendell Holmes, the father's *Declaration of Intellectual Independence* of America.

In 1838, he was invited to Harvard Divinity School, where he gave a famous address claiming early Christianity and discounting the miracles in the Bible. This radical approach was heavily criticized by members of the establishment. Emerson was absolutely against slavery, after 1844, he became more interested in the anti-

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slavery movement. He struggled against slavery through his writing and motivated people to be independent. He supported the election of Abraham Lincoln who was also against slavery.

Emerson famous works was essays; they had made a strong noise in the United States with his writings, divided into two series the first and the second series (1841, 1844). The first series includes his famous essay *Self-Reliance* where the readers will reconsider their positions and start to build a special relationship with nature and God, and to trust on themselves far from the judgment of the others. There are other works from Emerson's first series such as: *Compensation*, *Spiritual Law*, *love*, *friendship*, *Over-soul*, *Circle*, and *Intellect*. In another hand, the second series contains: *Gifts*, *Politics*, and *Nominalist*.

Emerson's later work was *The Conduct of Life 1860* which supported a more moderate balance between individual non-conformity and wider societal concerns. He encouraged for the abolition of slavery and continued to lecture across the country throughout the 1860s.

Emerson's style of writing influenced the society of the nineteenth century. He is considered as a prose writer with his incisive observation and his vivid expression. Although he dealt with complex concepts his writing contains directness, clarity, and careful progression from one idea to the next. The phraseology of Emerson and construction always suggest the spoken rather than the written word.

Emerson became known as the central figure in his literary and philosophical collection, now known as the American transcendentalism. This writer shared the main belief that each individual can transcend, or exceed, the physical world of the senses to a deeper spiritual experience through intuition and *Self-Reliance* is a good model to speak about it in order to know more about Emerson's writing and how he defended transcendentalism.

1.7. Self-Reliance

The first idea that comes to the mind when making a link between Self-Reliance and transcendentalism is the famous and the best known essay, *Self-Reliance* which was written by the philosopher and the essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson during the 19th century. Emerson stimulated his readers to be individual and rely on their capacities rather than wasting time in churches, he encouraged people to stay at home and develop their culture and their individual knowledge to form an ideal and individual personality. Emerson in his essay *Self-Reliance* stated:

To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men, that is genius. Speak your latent conviction, and it shall be the universal sense; for the inmost in due time becomes the outmost and our first thought is rendered back to us by the trumpets of the Last Judgment. (Emerson 26).

Emerson and others transcendentalists believed that people should be independent, follow their feelings and spiritual sense, and do not care about the judgment of the others, but if only your heart is not corrupted.

The essay *Self-Reliance* is the starting point in America that shaped a new way of thinking based on self-confidence, Emerson in his essay wanted to transmit many messages to the audience; his essay tackled many aspects in the society with a strong determination to treat many phenomena in the American society. *Self-Reliance* is the definite concept of Emerson's notions of individualism; this essay assesses the concept of individuals rather than the one of society, in addition to self-cultivation, religions, nations, and other institutions and systems of thought. The first and foremost aim of Emerson's *Self-Reliance* is encouraging people to act freely rather than automatically following popular opinion and corresponding to the will of the majority. Emerson preferred to retain the outspokenness of a child who speaks innocently, a child who has not yet corrupted by the adults who ordered him to do things, he focused on individualism rather than conformity.

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Self-Reliance is an essay divided into three major parts by scholars which Emerson does not formally do so: the value of and barriers to *Self-Reliance* (paragraph 1-17), *Self-Reliance* and the individual (paragraph 18-32), and *Self-Reliance* and society (paragraph 33-50). In the first part Emerson opened his essay with a Latin quotation: “*Ne tequaesiveris extra*” which means (do not look outside of yourself for the truth) by the Roman satirist and poet Aulus Persius Flaccus. Emerson here wants to focus on the meaning that man should listen to his inner voice, his own intuition, and impose himself to be heard. This sentence gathers a strong meaning about what is *Self-Reliance* in general, Emerson’s wish, was to turn people very strong without relying on the words of the others, books, or customs and traditions, his bold comment is that if people do not do what their mind says, someone else will enunciate what they feel or think; as a result they take their opinions from the others with shame.

In the second part, *Self-Reliance* and the individual, Spontaneity or instinct is an essential part in Emerson’s meaning of individualism, the sentence “Trust thyself” is the spoon of *Self-Reliance*; Emerson used it to clarify that man should trust on the power that inherit capability, in the other hand, to trust on the nature, he argued that to live correctly with God and nature, man should not care about what happened in the past or what will happen in the future, to make comparison between oneself to another, or rely on the words or thought of someone else.

The third part is about *Self-Reliance* and society, in those concluding paragraphs; Emerson indicated that *Self-Reliance* is a must to be applied in all sides of life: education, religion, pursuits, association, property, and in all judgments. In this final part, Emerson’s examination of society, proved that morality needs *Self-Reliance* and he advised the American to be original thinkers rather than followers. The concept of *Self-Reliance* may be somehow misunderstood. *Self-Reliance* is not a philosophy of individualism, nor a doctrine of liberalism, it is an essay that considered as a manner, a mean, and a cookbook that supports creativity and encourages people to be creators. Emerson also emphasized on being non-conformist in setting choices; because man should takes his decisions with a pure mind without any influences, as he said:

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“Whoso be a man, must be a nonconformist. He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness” (Emerson 29).

In other sense, even goodness cannot be taken in consideration, self-trust is the important element that should be present in man’s personality, he urged people to live in the current moment, which everything must be questioned and examined to know which advice and principles are worth accepting and which are the tools of the past. “Genius” is another word that repeated Emerson’s *Self-Reliance*, here individual can examine his or her genius by selecting principles as he said: “The inquiry leads us to that source, at once the essence of genius, of virtue, and of life, which we call Spontaneity or Instinct” (Emerson 36).

Self-Reliance tackled with many aspects such as art, freedom, conformity / non-conformity, and individualism. And the most important aspects that Emerson considered as key of the rise of the nation are: politics, society, and culture.

a- Politics:

Emerson considered as a political thinker, for him, Self-Reliance is not selfishness or just cultivation of one’s self but it is an empathy with all selves, this means that Emerson’s Self-Reliance is not just build for moral commitment to “reform” or “culture” of the self but also a political commitment to democracy where all other individuals can do the same. Emerson assented that “souls are not saved in bundles” as well as he supported democracy and considered it as a best way to actively promote self-reliant souls, as Emerson’s central task is Self-Reliance; also he prefers democratic politics not just the outlook of isolated individuals. These conservative commitments of Self-Reliance and democracy were the important principles in Emerson’s life which shown in the political activities and writings that considered as the heart of the new history. Since *Self-Reliance* based on theological issues; people cannot distinguish their political importance and their concept appeared in 1841, four years after President Andrew Jackson left his office. In 1828, the election Jackson set up an alliance between woodsmen and farmers from the western border and workers in

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the eastern cities. Emerson reacted against some specific policies of Jackson that defend slavery and their support for expelling Indian from their land but he expected them to have broader reasons as well. Lot of people as Emerson who is regardless of his non-conformist thought were still conserved many political aspect from the old New England elite that grew up. Being aware about the possibility of the rise of Jackson voters had turned American democracy into mob rule, Emerson wanted to inform people that mass society whose culture and politics build by a wide and diverse audience, should be shaped by the tastes and views of a small and narrow elite which called individuality.

b- Society:

Emerson defined society with a very interesting analogy in making individuals opposed to it, he described society as a “joint-stock Company” and he claimed that society based on conservative mode and prefers preservation in traditions and customs. This is prohibiting individuals to express themselves. Emerson in his essay *Self-Reliance* spent all his time in criticizing society such as when he said: “These are the voices which we hear in solitude, but they grow faint and inaudible as we enter into the world” (Emerson 29).

These voices are the voices of individuals that heard in the solitude, Emerson thought that society is ‘in conspiracy’ against individuality, his view of society was negative because society prevents individuals to be strong, he wanted from individuals to trust on themselves and believe that what is true for them is true for everyone. Emerson wanted people to be original and follow what is in his or her private heart; he urged individuals to be in competition with society, to struggle social rules and norms and that man must takes risks instead of conforming to the others and holding responsibility to control society instead of permitting society to control him.

c- Culture:

The concept of culture related to how society sees things, values, and people, according to each place, every society has its own way of thinking, way of living, and way of dressing. It is a set of ideas, behaviors, attitudes, values, beliefs, ethnicity, and

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perceptions that is reflected behaviors; it composes reality and guides people in how they view the world around, these concepts build a feeling of oneness that belongs to any society.

Emerson in his essay set the effect of Self-Reliance on the culture of individuals through changing religious practices and transmitting courage in American citizen to stay at home to develop their own civilization and culture emphasizing on individuality rather than societal progress. He pushed people to be non-conformists and to act upon their insights rather than waiting for the decision of the others, he believed in the value of self-cultivation which affected education and believed that culture devalues individual. Emerson also related culture or travel to religion, his view in travelling means a waste of time, he urged people to not travel in order to change the culture because he noticed that education system fails because schools teach them only to imitate the other side of the world instead of creating our self-culture, and the one who travel in order to develop his own culture or to find something better than he knows; he will travel for the wrong reasons and he will grow old without any result, Emerson also call the young scholars for cutting the relationship with European literary traditions.

Emerson opposed mass culture which consists of manufactured entertainments because its make people far from real question of spiritual health and social justice. And more about this mass society causes the intellectual mediocrity and conformity. Thus *Self-Reliance* is supporting people to be non-conformists and considered as a way of living for those who want to be individuals in a mass society.

1.8. Conformity and Non-conformity

Throughout history, many people tried to live life in a good way by releasing themselves from society's norms, tradition, and customs. Government, culture, conformity and non-conformity are all examples that led people create a wide range to change these beliefs and thoughts, Conformity is known as a change in belief or behavior according to specific values; its action in accord including social attitudes

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and practices. Conformity is an accord and agreement that change people behavior in order to 'fit in' or 'go along' with the people around them, it is considered as a type of social influence and takes the form of overt social or subtler unconscious influence in a group.

Conformity defined by Eysenck as:

Conformity can be defined as yielding to group pressures, something which nearly all of us do some of the time. Suppose, for example, you go with friends to see a film. You didn't think the film was very good, but all your friends thought that it was absolutely brilliant. You might be tempted to conform by pretending to agree with their verdict on the film rather than being the odd one out. (Eysenck 724).

Conformity used in order to make an agreement to the majority position. The first one or psychologist that should be studied conformity is Jennes (1932), his experiment included a glass bottle full of beans; it was an ambiguous situation, he asked people individually about how many beans are in the bottle, after that he put the group of people with the bottle in one room and asked them to discuss all together, participants were asked to estimate the number of their own in order to see if their initial estimates had altered based on the influence of the majority. Jeness asked them again individually to know whether they want to change their authentic estimates or stay with the group, the majority of the group had changed their decision to be closer to the group estimate.

In some situations, the social influence include agreement like the majority of people in a specific group or behaving in a particular way in order to be normal in the group; this is what known by conformity.

Conformity contains two main types: normative and informational influences.

Normative Conformity: Includes changing behavior in order to fit in with the group.

Informational Conformity:

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This kind of conformity happens when a person lacks knowledge and asks for help from the group for direction and information. But also there are other reasons why we conform. The following are some major types of conformity:

Compliance:

Considered as the lowest level of conformity, in this type a person changes his public behavior, how they act but not their private beliefs. For example, you might say that you like dub-step music because many other people in your class like dub-step music and you wish to fit in, however privately you dislike this style of music.

Identification:

Is the middle level of conformity and it happens when people conform to be like a particular person, it based upon their social roles, here a person changes their public behavior and their private beliefs but only in the presence of the group. For example, a person may decide to become a vegetarian because all of his new flat mates are vegetarian, however, whenever he walks past a MacDonald's he can't resist a Big Mac and when he is away from his flat mates he still eats meat.

Internalization:

This kind is the deepest level of conformity, here a person changes their private belief and their public behavior and acting and believing are in agreement with social pressure. For example, if an individual is influenced by a group of Buddhists and converts to this faith, then their new religious way of life will continue without the presence of the group and they have internalized this belief.

In the other hand non-conformity has been defined as the deflection from a specification, a standard or an expectation. It is usually expressed in modern culture by a general method of authenticity and a disaffection to the ordinary. All these feelings are common among the teenager publics, as most of them are curious about finding a good place and important knowledge in the world that drive them to comfort. Non-conformity is the non fulfillment of a requirement.

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And the most famous non-conformists are Thoreau, Martin Luther king Jr., Elvis Presley and Abraham Lincoln.

For example: In the book Santiago had always a dream about a treasure. This dream is to travel the world but his sheep always stopped him. But once he knew that, that was his personal legend he decided to go and fulfill his dream. Santiago also says his purpose in his life is to travel. So Santiago is an example of non-conformity.

Non-conformity is classified on 3 types: major, minor and critical non-conformity.

Minor Non-conformity:

It represents an administrative system and a secondary issue. Any non-conformity does not affect the performance, appearance, and durability; it may result in major or critical non-conformity if not addressed. Probable improvement and the search for any weaknesses in the system should be considered.

Major Non-conformity:

It is based on objective evidence, the absence of significant failure to implement or maintain compliance with the requirements of applicable standards. Major non-conformity, may result in physical failure or shrinkage of the usability of the product to the weight of the intended purpose or appearance, it cannot be completely eliminated by rework or reduced to a minor mismatch by a certified repair.

Critical Non-conformity:

It may result in the production of an unsafe or dangerous product for individuals who use, maintain, depend on the product, or exclude vital performance. This also leads to the rejection or destruction of the cargo.

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1.9. The United States in the 60s

The 60's in America is a decade that started in 1960 and ended in 1969. It was an important decade for the Americans because it witnessed many events and changes in politics, society, culture, education and economics.

At the beginning of this period and with the election of President John F. Kennedy, many Americans believed that this decade would be good and full of peace, justice and hope. Unfortunately, it was not because many events affected Americans such as the assassination of President Kennedy, the Civil Rights Movement advocate Dr. Martin Luther King, the Vietnam War, and the Cuban missile crisis. This is what led many Americans to defend their rights, protest against segregation and the war in Vietnam, demand equality between men and women, and fight against poverty and unemployment. Although these negative events happened in this period, many others were quite positive such as the landing of the first man on the moon called Neil Armstrong.

This period also knew other major aspects of lifestyle such as the "hippies and flower power", "Beatles, rocks and beans". This was the beginning of the ski era that was started by some surfing enthusiasts in California who were frustrated by the weather and put roller skates on the front and back of the wooden planks.

TV shows witnessed many changes in the appearance of Perry Mason 1957-1966, Rawhide 1959-1966, the Saint 1966-1969, the Prisoner 1967-1968, Ironsides 1967-1975, and Hogan's Heroes 1965-1971 and Lassie 1954-1973. Movie stars were also very popular at that time and the most famous were Julie Andrews, Paul Newman, John Wayne, Elizabeth Taylor, Doris Day, Elvis Presley, Richard Burton and Rock Hudson.

The 60's was a decade controlled by the Vietnam War which its effects were still felt throughout the world. It is also a beginning to show how people can influence politics through the power of peaceful demonstrations. In the West, although politicians were willing to stop demonstrations against their policies, because of the "freedom of expression" was not possible. Many conflicts during the 1960s could be

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considered part of the ongoing Cold War between East and West (communism and capitalism), but given the nuclear capabilities of both sides he wanted to fling to start a full war as they realized there could not be a winner but both thought her ideology was better, Others influence policy around the world.

Many believe the closest the world has come to a World Wide Nuclear War which was in 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The United States also witnessed the election of the president John F. Kennedy from 1961 till his assassination in 1963 at Dallas, Texas by Lee Harvey Oswald. Although his presidency didn't still a long time because of his murder, but his commitment was still remembered. The Cuban Crisis, Bay of Pigs Invasion and creating the Peace Corps to help underdeveloped nations in areas such as education, farming, health care and construction. For such a short term in office his achievements endeared him to the American People.

During the 1960s, Martin Luther King Jr., who was a civil rights defender and an exceptionally talented speaker, was followed by other great leaders throughout history using nonviolent means alongside the power of speech, and were able to create change through his powerful subsequent influence. He was assassinated on 4 April 1968 by James Earl Ray.

In addition, The 60's also bought the space race to new heights and ended the race to land a man on the moon and bring him back when America through the Apollo 11 mission on July 20, 1969 put Neil Alden Armstrong became the first humans to land on the Moon fulfilling the American Dream to place a man on the moon before the Russians.

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1.10. Conclusion

To sum up, this theoretical chapter labeled the most ideas of transcendentalism and its transcendental thinking such as idealism and individualism, and also defined Ralph Waldo Emerson who is the father of transcendentalism, and their works like *Self-Reliance* that is based on three concepts: politics, society, and culture.

This chapter provided definitions of the terms conformity and non-conformity, and an overview of the 60's in America and its famous events that affected the American politics, society, and culture.

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The Impact of Transcendentalism Over Decades

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2.1. Introduction

The 1960's was the most influential decade in terms of attitudes and values. It witnessed many events that changed the American lifestyle in all domains. It was a decade of newness, reform, power, non-conformity, optimism, and freedom, the people in the 1960's were influenced by many thinkers of the previous eras, especially by one of the most famous intellectual over the years who was Ralph Waldo Emerson; the most significant thinker, writer, and philosopher. Thanks to such adherents, Transcendentalism emerged with great influence in the 19th the century, Emerson's essay *Self-Reliance* made a big noise through decades because of Emerson's wise words that challenged the intellect. Every decade witnessed a special touch of transcendentalism, especially the ones who are considered idealists in society such as leaders, presidents, writers, and artists. Movements such as the Beat Generation, the Hippie Movement, the Civil Rights movement, the Black Panthers, and presidents such as President John F. Kennedy, President Ronald Reagan, President Barack Obama, and the current president of the U.S Donald Trump, in addition to leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr.; all these known characters and events were and are under the influence of transcendentalism which was the engine of the following eras sharing the same attitudes and values of uniqueness.

2.2. Transcendentalism From the 60s

The sixties in U.S was a decade of liberation from strict orders; it was a decade of revolution and change in politics, society, and culture and known as a period of political and cultural turmoil, Free love, psychedelic drugs, and progressive rock. In the 1960's young Americans started to demand reform on and off universities; they had reacted against materialism, consumerism, traditional sexuality and marriage, and conformity. They thought that all paths leading to real investigation, even those including illicit drugs could be justified. America in the 60's known as "the land of

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the free and the home of the brave¹”because the young generation started reacting against their parent’s old behaviors and demanding to be independent; they called for adopting new policies towards peace, freedom, and individuality.

Transcendentalism in the early 60s considered as the movement of a new kind of generation which first emerged and known with a group of intellectuals in the post-World War II, a group of writers who became famous in the late 1950s and early 1960s influenced by foreign philosophy. In this period many amendments, new ways of thinking, and beliefs were appearing, as a result of the effect of World War II, and thanks to these effects, a more liberal generation arose strongly. Poets were famous with their bawdy and unsuitable words and events particularly in their literary works; this type of eccentric writing includes odd sexual activity, and heavy consumption of drugs and alcohol, and rebellion against society’s norms. They both resembled and were different from the writers of Harlem Renaissance and Transcendentalists as they are both considered key revolutionary ideologies but in different ways.

The sexual revolution in the 1960’s was an unimaginable era including risky sexual acts and free sex perspectives; this perception flourished and has transcended the meaning of how Americans view their bodies and sexuality with the help of journalists at the time who were encouraging sexual freedom. This taboo was rarely admired by the old generation because they were less prone to embrace such a liberal view of sexuality, and the most prominent example is the rise of LGBT community². The 1960’s sexual revolution in America provided people freedom to act freely without being ashamed; they even allowed the same sex-marriage and blaming their parents that they know nothing. (Andrea and Sylvester 213).

The 1960’s also witnessed heavy consumption of drugs and alcohol especially with the ones who were named the counterculture, the Beat Generation, and the hippies. Drug abuse was one of the biggest changes in America that contained illicit drugs, and principally hallucinogens like marijuana and LSD which were first used by

¹“The land of the free and the home of the brave”: Is the famous words which are written by the author Francis Scott Key in 1814 and in 1931 they have been sung as the national anthem of the United States.

² LGBT community: Is a term which includes: lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender; this term describe special groups involving gay culture. It was first focus on gay men and later on, it had draw attention to issues specific to gay women under the name of "lesbian".

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jazz musicians and hippie characters. In addition to other drugs which have been more harmful such as cocaine, heroin, amphetamines and barbiturates, which expanded the drugs idea and gained insight into the world which allowed normal recreation and often harmful use, this excessive use led to the death of many people. The use of drugs in the 1960's changed scales in America and formed a decade full of protest, revolution, freedom seeking, spiritual expansion, rebellion, art, and music.

The 1960's also was a decade of rebellion against society's norms; the Americans started to react against the unfair treatment of the African-American and demanded an end to the Vietnam War, they claimed that their parents' behaviors and attitudes were unfair to help them face social and racial difficulties. Their rebellion embodied in a stranger style of clothing and living, in addition to music that held important messages to rebel against war, injustice, and segregation; they demanded for peace, love, freedom, and equality. All of that formed by groups which represented the young generation such as the Beat Generation, the hippies, and the Black Panthers.

The Beat Generation consists of writers, artists, and intellectuals. They acted against conformity and materialism for the sake of enlightenment. As much as the period after the World War II in 1940s was a period of pressure, the post war in the 1960s was a period of rebellion and non-conformity in America. This leads to the emergence of the Beat movement, because the youth changed the traditional "American dream" by their own lifestyles. Transcendentalism inspired the Beats; ant the Beats inspired the hippies in the 1960s.

Both transcendentalists and the Beats shared the same beliefs and attitudes; they both supported non-conformity, though the transcendentalists were the first who suggested the idea that society is the source of corruption as Emerson said:

“Society is a joint-stock company, in which the members agree, for the better securing of his bread to each shareholder, to surrender the liberty and culture of the eater” (Emerson 29).

Society is the joint-stock company because they corrupt individuals and collect them into one ambiguous person, it insisted that people should commit and follow the

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paths of others' behaviors; Emerson argued that society could work if only individuals conform and pushed people to be consistent. Both movements together believed in freedom and self-trust, they supported free thought and free will and they urged people to reject traditional values. The Beats built their new concept and attitudes basing on transcendental beliefs, and they shared the idea of society's corruption as William Burroughs stated: "I have a strange feeling here of being outside any social context".

Despite the fact that the Beats were criticized and considered as a nemesis in society, but their work inspired many people as well as it was taken as a model for American writers, the Beat poets were an independent group of writers that wrote with an obscene and inappropriate language; this kind of writing was not acceptable for the majority of the audience. The most famous writers in that moment were: Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs and Jack Kerouac, commonly agreed to be the best known poets because of their common style of writing. Poems like *Howl* focus on trials which were based on obscene misconduct in the literary world because of the use of foul language. As an example of this unsuitable verbal behavior that can take the poem entitled *Howl* which was written by Allen Ginsberg as a model. These conflicts for acceptance and confession in society basing on Beat poems help to liberate the publication within the United States.

Transcendentalists and the writers of the Beat Generation shared many things in common. Depending on the similarities that both groups have, one of the most significant one is their appreciation of the human spirit and individuality. Transcendentalists considered the soul as an important element to express their beliefs in their daily life in addition to nature and God. This essentially is similar to the Beats eastern religion; this materialized in Buddhism where there is a necessity for inner peace and interconnectedness with which the self evolves. Another similarity was that both movements disobey society each one with its own way.

As a result, the Beat Generation left a great impact in the 60's with a great acceptance, because of their grand success; they were compared to the transcendentalists and the writers of Harlem Renaissance, both groups appreciate nature and individuality. The transcendentalists prefer beach and meadow to spend

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their time in order to express themselves, however the Beats prefer travelling across America to have an expansion mind.

Finally, the Beats essentially considered as the transcendentalists of the 60's because they share the same beliefs, and the only difference between both groups: transcendentalists and the Beats is the century they lived in.

2.2.1. Politics

The 1960s in America witnessed lot of events; it was a period of revolution, idealism, uniqueness, flower children, assassinations, rebellion, and extremes. The beginning of the sixties in America started with the election of a young senator from Massachusetts John F. Kennedy on Jan. 2, 1960 as the 35th president of the United States. For the Americans, the young president was the spirit of hope for the nation, this period changed from hope to violence; many people reacted against ill treatment of the African-American as well as the equality for women, in addition to the call for making an end to the Vietnam War President John F. Kennedy was the first young man to be elected as a president of the United States; the president who broke barriers in America with a confident tone. The young president John F. Kennedy was the symbol of youth, efficiency, persuasion, and non-conformity. His way of governing was so special; his speeches were the core heart of the audience problems. All his speeches hold solutions to citizens and full of persuasive words in order to transmit hope in American people to solve problems. After President John F. Kennedy began his presidency; he started to motivate American citizens to be more active as he said: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country"

The president John F. Kennedy was one of the presidents who were really affected by transcendentalism and its famous leader Ralph Waldo Emerson because he was a democratic man who was able to influence such minds that hold ideal thinking to change the world; he influenced people throughout his intriguing thinking and provoked people to explore their inner capacity, President Kennedy got insight and inspiration in governing from the Emersonian way. Emerson's essay *Self-Reliance* left

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a great impact in America, changed the people's way of thinking, and gave them strength to confront the world with their individual creativity; Emerson encouraged people to react with an authentic American voice to be known.

President John F. Kennedy inspired by thoughts of Emerson such as non-conformity and how people should eliminate conformity, Emerson in his essay *Self-Reliance* called for non-conformity and urged people to stay at home and be individual through creating their own attitudes, he had rejected conformity because it makes for an unsuccessful society, and prevents individuals to express themselves as he said: "Your conformity explains nothing. Act singly, and what you have already done singly will justify you now" (Emerson 34).

For Emerson the word conformity is a negative word; the deadly poison of individuality, and the enemy of originality. He asserted that those who are around people can never equal their personality and their personal touch, he called for non-conformity to make individuals stronger and get venerability and respect as he said: "Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist" (Emerson 29).

People's special vision of reality create their personality; the ambiguity of reality embraced by non-conformists to fulfill a free lifestyle. For individuals, the inner law is superior to collective laws that make people as a sulfur package; when you burn one automatically the entire package will be burned.

On the other hand the president John F. Kennedy was also against conformity, he said that: "Conformity is the jailor of freedom and the enemy of growth". He asserted that people who follow others' decisions, could never build their own personality and live a life constrained by the others' thoughts and ways. Most of President Kennedy's speeches called for self-determination and freedom, according to him non-conformity is one of the principles of living in the United States, he used to think that conformity is an individual's prison, and its opposite is a necessity for the nation. In 1954 the president John F. Kennedy was still senator; he and his staff wrote *profiles in courage*, a book which speaks about distinct brave American politicians, he was one of the people who refused commitment, and extreme pressure which he saw as a fatal risk to

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the political domain, as well as a defamation of its character and a factor of rejection by the electors. His aim was to stimulate politicians not to conform and to react individually, as he praised them for their courage. In addition to this he commended people who refused voting under the control of their parties policies.

Hundred years ago, American people were obliged to wear hats; according to them when the man wearing a hat it means that he is a gentleman, after the coming of President John F. Kennedy he was against those traditional hats, he thought of a strategy to eliminate this silly habit and fears based on religion and anti-Catholic wariness. The president John F. Kennedy killed the hats when he did not wear a hat in his inauguration, later on the hats industry began to reduce after President Kennedy's promotion to the Oval Office. The president John F. Kennedy was the cause of the death of the hats; this is considered as a strong symbol of non-conformity.

2.2.1.1. President John F. Kennedy and Black Segregation

President John F. Kennedy dealt with many problems such as racial discrimination; in 1954 the supreme court of the U.S ruled that segregation in public schools had to be stopped. African-American and whites had to get education together. However, this law did not applied in all schools especially in southern states. In addition to this racial segregation were spread in many fields such as in public places, on restaurants, on buses, and in movie theatres. The president John F. Kennedy was striving to stop this segregation in order to give all people the chance to express themselves. According to this decision many Americans with different races acted together to make an end to this injustice. Martin Luther king Jr. was one of the well-known leaders of the movement for civil rights, the president John F. Kennedy believed that public protest would only make whites anger and make it harder to convince congressmen who do not agree to enact civil rights laws. In June, 11, 1963 President John F. Kennedy mad decision to help civil right struggle. His speech about segregation was memorable as he said:

I hope that every American, regardless of where he lives, will stop and examine his conscience about this and other related incidents. This Nation was

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founded by men of many nations and backgrounds. It was founded on the principle that all men are created equal, and that the rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened. (Kennedy 01).

He agreed that all Americans are equal; regardless their color skin and their races, they must share the same rights as the whites and have the right to live happy, President Kennedy's way of thinking is picked up from Emerson's ideas and thought .i.e. when Emerson said:

“I am ashamed to think how easily we capitulate to badges and names, to large societies and dead institutions. Every decent and well-spoken individual affects and sways me more than is right” (Emerson 29).

The great influence from society appears when people cannot express their own ideas, when a nice person talks to them about the things he wants; someone who expresses his own ideas with a language that seems familiar to him. Emerson wanted to persuade individuals to react and call for their rights to be equal with the others and to have the same chance as eminent persons.

The president John F. Kennedy also called for freedom through using emancipation proclamation to clarify that many Americans were not yet fully liberated as he said:

We preach freedom around the world, and we mean it, and we cherish our freedom here at home, but are we to say to the world, and much more importantly, to each other that this is the land of the free except for the Negroes; that we have no second class citizens except Negroes; that we have no class or caste system, no ghettos, no master race except with respect to Negroes? (Kennedy p02)

He supported the disadvantages category in the U.S, and promised them to congress a bill to give all the Americans the same rights. The president John F. Kennedy was fighting for freedom, and for making the Americans in one class. His aim was to eliminate segregation, unfairness, slavery, racism and conformity, President John F. Kennedy's dream was to see the American people share the same rights and freedom.

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The president John F. Kennedy was struggling for freedom and Self-Reliance and this was the main cause of his death, because of his strong speeches and his strong determination to achieve his goals.

Another figure in politics that was affected by transcendentalism in governing in the 90's is President Ronald Reagan (1911-2004), a former actor and a governor of California; he was the 40th president of the United States in the eighties, he governed the U.S from 1981 to 1989, the amiable man who governed the U.S two terms. During his presidency Ronald Reagan had known as the "great communicator" because he had always paid attention to his speeches and even to his audience's reaction. The president Ronald Reagan had a natural connection with his audience; his speeches were attractive and persuasive, he was always optimistic and had a bright vision towards the future, though he was an old man, but he attracted the more young generation with his speeches. His aim in making speeches was not just to inform the audience but to persuade them with his attractive words; President Reagan's way of speaking touched the hearts before the minds.

President Ronald Reagan was a man that called for freedom, Self-Reliance, equality, and non-conformity, he considered as a non-conformist and a great communicator such as the best known and great thinker in his time Ralph Waldo Emerson. President Ronald Reagan heavily influenced by the ideas and words of Emerson and this is shown in his way of governing and thoughts, President Reagan's self-confidence flowed from his beliefs that all men are equal. The president Ronald Reagan called for individuality relaying on Emerson's theory of individualism, President Reagan considered as the nineteenth century transcendentalist according to his similar thinking to Emerson, the famous slogan of President Reagan's complain in 1984: "It's morning in America", it holds an Emersonian spirit and a sense that happy days is coming, President Reagan's slogan hides an optimist sense which is full of peace, freedom, Self-Reliance, happiness, and the desires of the heart.

In the other hand, Emerson in his time called for non-conformity; he stated that people must trust on their capacities not the state, and seek for wealth and power without sin or shame, he claimed that: "The objection to conforming to usages that have become

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dead to you is, that it scatters your force. It loses your time and blurs the impression of your character” (Emerson 31).

Emerson wanted to clarify that the more man spend his time that is consistent with the style he do not believe in, especially when it leads to make decisions that do not belong to him; it wastes his time, his energy, and his money. The more he adopts other’s decisions in his own life, the more people around him and friends build a false image about him unoriginal personality.

The president Ronald Reagan held a great influence from Emerson’s way of thinking, Reagan also influenced Diggins writings and he wrote an idiosyncratic biography entitled *Ronald Reagan: Fate, freedom, and the making of history*, he admired President Reagan’s way of ruling; he stated that the romantic political leader Ronald Reagan was the symbol of liberation spirit of the modern American history. Diggins clarified that President Reagan picked up Emerson’s ideas with a great influence when he said in his speech:

“Emerson was right. We are the country of tomorrow.... America remains on a voyage of discovery, a land that has never become, but is always in the act of becoming.”

As a transcendentalist, Emerson wanted to redeem Americans of the puritanical tradition and eliminating a life full of sin and suffering. President Reagan wanted to free America from fear and selfishness; he refreshed American minds with Emerson’s beliefs and optimism, his aim was to leave the American mind innocent without evil’s influence and the sins of human nature. As Ralph Waldo Emerson the leader of transcendentalism in the nineteenth the century, President Ronald Reagan in his speech in 1969 called for renewal of individual character to develop American civilization, he believed that revolution brings freedom, peace, and security, he attacked government in his first inaugural Address in Tuesday, January 20th, 1981complaining that: “Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity; not stifle it”. Here Reagan wants to say that government must be catalyst and not an obstacle for individual Self-Reliance. He wanted from government to be with the

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citizen not against him President Reagan also asserted that: "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem." He believed that government is the problem itself; relying on principles that government suffocates citizens with taxes and federal regulation. The president Ronald Reagan was particularly successful in cutting these taxes, increasing defense spending, making an agreement with the Soviets to reduce nuclear arms, eliminating environmental regulation, and calling for an end to the cold war. In another part of speech he argued that: "Ending With the idealism and fair play which is the core of our system and our strength, we can have a strong and prosperous America, at peace with itself and the world."

President Reagan supported individual procedures relying on Emerson's beliefs and attitudes towards individuality. In the other hand Emerson in his essay *Self-Reliance* stated that:

If you maintain a dead church, contribute to a dead Bible-society, vote with a great party either for the government or against it, spread your table like base housekeepers, under all these screens I have difficulty to detect the precise man you are. (Emerson 31).

Emerson believed that conforming to any level of society represents an empty and weak personality, he based his beliefs on truth which is related to the individual's experiences as he argued that: "imitation is suicide". According to Emerson this reliance on personal sensation is the true Self-Reliance, man should not imitate anyone. Conforming to rules that have become dead to you makes you go back and never move forward on your own path, and waste your time rather than make an achievement. Both in Emerson's lifetime and death, he left a great influence and reputation on the last decades. For the most part, President Reagan imitated Emerson in his thoughts and way of thinking .i.e. when talking about relying on oneself Emerson in *Self-Reliance* stated that:

The magnetism which all original action exerts is explained when we inquire the reason of self-trust. Who is the Trustee? What is the aboriginal Self, on which a universal reliance may be grounded? What is the nature and power of

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that science-baffling star, without parallax, without calculable elements, which shoots a ray of beauty even into trivial and impure actions, if the least mark of independence appear? (Emerson 36).

Emerson believed that doing something different from the others needs self-trust. If he does not trust on himself, he cannot be known it is the time to break his barriers to reach his essence, challenge the world even if they push him to the other direction of his goals, and finally he can build his own attitudes and beliefs that he really rely on. To have a strong foundation in life, man should never fail to challenge his core beliefs even if he faces risks in doing that, as a result he acts freely in his life. Conversely President Reagan in his announcement for Presidential Candidacy on July, 17, 1980 at the Republican National Convention in Detroit, Michigan, he said that:

A troubled and afflicted mankind looks to us, pleading for us to keep our rendezvous with destiny; that we will uphold the principles of Self-Reliance, self-discipline, morality, and, above all, responsible liberty for every individual that we will become that shining city on a hill.

President Reagan acted for four strands: Liberalism, traditionalism, aggressive anti-communism and Christian activism, he asserted that man should trust in his capacities and should have responsibility towards his behaviors in order to be free and reach the sense of liberty individuals. The greatest lesson from President Reagan presidency is that president work should not just achieve result, but also must accord with America's ideological center of gravity, he considered as the transcendentalist and a liberalist president, a president who followed Emerson's step in governing to achieve his goals.

2.2.2. Society from the 60's and Forward

The 1960's in the U.S manifested great changes in social, cultural, and political aspects, the first ideas that come to mind when talking about the 60's including components of society are: the hippies and the psychedelic lifestyles, the black civil rights movement, and music such as the British 'invasion'. The individuals are the component of society; they interact to each other to shape a complete society, in the 1960's individuals were act freely and made rebellions against social norms, it was an

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especially-tumultuous that was memorable with its cultural and social issues, in the sixties many babies who were born after the World War II became teenagers and adults with a very different mentality from the previous generations, their parent and grandparents were very conservative and traditional and these behaviors make them feel bored; they asked about everything from the traditional roles of the sexes in the family to educational methods, this young generation rebelled against social and political issues including the Vietnam War, homosexual freedom, and human rights. These led to the emergence of new movement and ideas such as Civil Rights Movement, the Hippie Movement, Black Panthers, and transcendental meditation and awareness movement. All these revolutions hold one aim that the U.S must get freedom.

2.2.2.1. The Hippie Movement

The 1960's in America known as a decade of new ideas, new religious beliefs, and liberation from conformity. This known as the Hippie Movement, it was a movement that called for freedom, love, and peace.

The word 'hippie' originates from the word 'hipster' which first came from a song 'Harry the hipster' by Harry Gibson in 1940s, the song shows that the hipsters were the beatniks, the followers of literary movement of the Beat Generation who were anti-conformists and idealists. The second meaning of the word hipster or hip in literary meaning is to know, which means wise people, the hippies preferred the noun beautiful people rather than 'hippie', it first used on September 5, 1965 in the article '*A New Haven for Beatniks*' by San Francisco journalist Michael Fallon who wrote about the Blue Unicorn coffeehouse, this movement appeared in the 1960s.

When people think about the sixties, they might think first about the hippies and Civil Rights Movement because the 1960s decade attend a transformation from the Beat Generation to the hippies' movement especially when the Beats start to tackle with political issues, it replaced by a movement that arose and held the same ideals but with vital colored clothing, long hair, and folk music; they also had known as the 'flower children' as well. Hippies though that people are outcasts from the society

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because of the domination of materialism and repression, as a result they create their own lifestyle that reflected their personal beliefs. The hippies' lifestyle was more interesting because they setup living in quarters or communes in bigger cities which known as the hippies' villages. The hippies' period was one of the most distinctive colorful decades; a movement that attracted the media thanks to its distinctive appearance with special dress like (bell-bottomed pants, jeans, brightly colored shirts, sandals, beards, and long loose hair on both men and women) their way of clothing influenced lot of people all over the world in addition to their drug use and psychedelic music. The hippies' lifestyle adopted sexual promiscuity and recreational drugs such as marijuana and hallucinogenic LSD, at that time sex and drugs were the main spices in the Rock music by groups like the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane and performers such as Janis Joplin and Jim Morrison. This distinctive movement were the most spirited eye catching and nonpolitical group which known as the counterculture.

The hippie counterculture movement in the 1960's included different social issues and beliefs, their major tenet was about happiness and how being happy and not what people though, and their smile was the secret of their achievement under a slogan which was that "if it feels good, do it". Hippies were against their parents' values and attitudes; they support new things and rosy life, as well as they were against established institutions which called as 'The Establishment', 'Big Brother', and 'The Man'. This young generation was also against middle class values, nuclear weapons, and Vietnam War because they sought to find new meaning in life full of hope and prosperity.

The Hippie Movement considered as an influential cultural movement, the hippies believed in peace, love, tolerance, and to give people the chance and freedom to express themselves, and neglected judging people according to their appearance, their way of acting and wearing represent their aim both for fan and to create a new way of living, they created a new way of style which was a sign of rebellion against injustice, violence, and wars, and preferred freedom and liberal policies. Their main ideas consist of Rejecting conformity, materialism is wrong, be yourself not who anyone else wants you to be, Peace and love better than wars, be tolerant towards the subject

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of sexuality and sex. Freedom is the essential key in order to express their capacity even if the expression is against laws and cultural principles because it was the essential virtue of their system; they supported adopting new experiences and going where the flow takes them as Jim Morrison said: “It seems to me to be the road to freedom-external freedom is a way to bring about internal freedom”. (Stone 12).

To be a hippie means to hold a respect to nature and planet, and respect others through tolerance and love and teach people virtues of the hippie way because their way never died; it was exist from the old time like Jesus’ time, Henry David Thoreau’s time, Emerson’s time, and John Lennon time and till now. The hippies great influence flowed from transcendentalist movement despite the fact that both movement witnessed dissatisfaction and plaint but they hold joyful and love, they both supported beauty and nature in addition to be individual and free to create man’s own career as Seth said: “you create your own reality” (Stone 13).

2.2.2.2.1. Pure Freedom: Sex, Love, Drugs, and Music:

The period of the hippies was a period of citizen’s revolution included many aspects such as sex, love, drugs, and music. The 60’s revolution of sex was different from others decades, Hippies’ sex revolution transformed from “No sex before marriage” to “If it feels good do it”, for Hippies the real freedom meant get free from social inhibitions which made a great noise on sexual freedom on the U.S, this revolution liberated millions of Americans from the puritan sexual attitudes. (Stone 14). As Betty Friedan stated:

“Instead of fulfilling the promise of infinite orgiastic bliss, sex in the America of the feminine mystique is becoming a strangely joyless national compulsion, if not a contemptuous mockery.”

The concept of free love by Hippies allowed people express themselves and means you were free to love whomever man pleased, whenever he pleased, however he pleased, love was not specialized for just one person but he could choose anyone to love, it was allowed to be shared freely with everyone without caring about people judgment; they considered that proper sex is deserved by those who love each other.

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Aleister Crowley complains that: “Men and women are not free to love decently until they have analyzed themselves completely and swept away every mystery from sex.” (Stone 14).

After the World War II the researches were more expanded, drugs in the 60’s took a large uncontrolled experiment, they produced new drugs against diseases in order to relax, to relieve pain and stomach upset, to sleep, to reduce hyperactivity in children, and to eliminate the symptoms of mental disorders. All medicine was containing drugs with all kinds of diseases; they believed that diseases will recover with drugs because the 60’s drugs were not represent as evil except heroin which was addicted by junkies, but the rest was allowed and help people to heal or at least to feel good as Jefferson Airplane (White Rabbit) said: “One pill makes you larger, and one pill makes you small. And the ones that mother gives you don’t do anything at all. Go ask Alice, when she’s ten feet tall”. (Stone 18).

The impact of psychedelic drugs in the 60’s was clearly appeared in colorful fashions, several art movement, and the flow of musical talent, thanks to such open minds the hippies considered as the one whom experience such kind of drugs with large quantity and flowing new ideas.

Music was an integral part from Hippies life, music in the early 60’s transformed from manorial to stereo which held a psychedelic effect; their music expressed their emotional side, spiritual side, and political side. Music can express and give a voice to a movement, formulate a statement and even unite people. Music in the 60’s was more than an entertainment because it transformed messages to the world that hold important issues and event. Max Yasgur, owner of the farm where Woodstock took place said that:

“The important thing that you have proven to the world is that half a million kids can get together and have fun and music and nothing but fun and music, and I bless you for it!”(Stone 35).

In one way or another, songs make people think and dream about the future, their music included *Heavy Metal*, *Punk*, *Disco*, *Rap*, *Hip Hop*, and *Techno*. Also *folk* and

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rock music were the main part of Hippie culture. Famous singers of that period were *Bob Dylan* and *Joan Baez* and famous groups like the *Beatles*, *Grateful Dead*, and *Jefferson Airplane* were the music' engine of the movement.

In music domain in 1960's Public gathering and part music festivals was an essential part in hippies' lifestyle, a famous festival of music was organized in San Francisco in 1967 which lasted three days known as Woodstock, it was a rebellion of young people against old and traditional attitudes; people gathered and listened to musicians such as Jimi Hendrix and Joan Baez in addition to groups like *The Who* and *Jefferson Airplane*. The aim of such music is to hold more love towards people and realize personal freedom in America.

All this aspects of Hippie movement hold unique aim which is getting freedom in everything. The Hippie Movement was a copy the same as original of transcendentalism for the reason that both movements called for freedom, individuality, and conformity as well as they were lovers of beauty and nature. The Hippie Movement of the 1960's considered as the prime example of transcendentalist ideas since the impact of transcendentalism and its popular thinkers was visible in the hippies especially Ralph Waldo Emerson therefore his works were the influential ideology of the hippies, they were attracted by transcendentalist beliefs especially the term of freedom. The hippies considered as the most open-minded people in religion due to the fact that they sought for freedom and equality to everyone and in everywhere referring to their thinking that they were essence of freedom when they reject social program, attitudes, prejudices and fears. Hippies spirit holds a strong feeling of freedom, a beautiful feeling inside their souls demand to be free because they believed that they were free to think, free to do anything, and to be whatever they like and if people did not experience this freedom; a significant part of their personality stopped growing. (Stone 32). Jim Morrison stated: "The most important kind of freedom is to be what you really are."

Emerson the famous leader of the transcendentalist movement left a great influence on American people through decades, especially with his famous essay *Self-Reliance* that becomes a cornerstone of the following movements, Emerson's demanded for

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freedom and self-trust made a big noise; thanks to his wise way to transform messages as he said:

What I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think. This rule, equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the whole distinction between greatness and meanness. It is the harder, because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude. (Emerson 31).

Emerson stimulated people to not conform and to create their own reality and insisted that man should reach his inner freedom although that adopting such kinds of non-conformity steps is not easy, he asserted that if man wants to achieve great things he should not do what people want and expect of him because if he influenced by people beliefs, their ideas, and their habits; he will be handcuffed by their routine then it will be hard to break this routine and to make real change in his life, but if man follow what he believes and what he thinks he will be saved from social circle and routine, and friendship which is agreed with the true thing in his heart will be deep and powerful friendship. These kinds of relationship deserve to seek for it.

As transcendentalism Hippies was seeking for mental enlightenment and for true nature of reality; they thought that they reach their inner freedom throughout taking drugs, practicing Yoga, wearing freely, doing whatever they want, and expressing their feeling through music. This is expressed by John Lennon's lyrics of Come together in 1972 when he said: "One thing I can tell you is you've got to be FREE!" (Stone 45).

Hippies desired to be free not only mentally but also politically; their primary goals were individuality, liberation, and communal freedom in addition to break social, mental, and political boundaries that limit their personal creativity as Jim Morrison said:

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I like ideas about the breaking away or overthrowing of established order. I am interested in anything about revolt, disorder, chaos, especially activity that seems to have no meaning. It seems to me to be the road towards freedom - external freedom is a way to bring about internal freedom. (Stone 12).

This is agreeing with Emerson's theory of freedom when he said in his essay of *Self-Reliance*:

Does this sound harsh to-day? You will soon love what is dictated by your nature as well as mine, and, if we follow the truth, it will bring us out safe at last. But so you may give these friends pain. Yes, but I cannot sell my liberty and my power, to save their sensibility. Besides, all persons have their moments of reason, when they look out into the region of absolute truth; then will they justify me, and do the same thing. (Emerson 41).

Emerson argued that the truth realized when man adhere to his basic principles in everything he does whatever these principles may be (at least it must be socially positive) through time someone will come to admire you, it is not a requirement that he will like people's ideas on which their life based on, but he will respect their deep and true power that their using it in their life's work. Emerson also argued that man should not be worry about what people will say because the important thing not need to please anyone and to be sure that he will make lot of people happy. He warned man to pay attention to his social position, to be free, and to feel good because of his positive achievement and his influence on other people. When go to bed at night and bring back the events of his day, the fact that man remembers his daily achievement will make him feel good.

Moreover when come to discuss Hippies freedom and break boundaries, Hippies sexual freedom is out of being omitted as stone stated that: "Many people accuse hippies of being promiscuous, having wild sex orgies, seducing innocent teenagers and every manner of sexual perversion." (Stone 14)

Participation in temporary sexual relationships and experiences were the most important issues at that time in terms of allowing free love. The reality is that this kind

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of yearning for independence born a kind of sexual revolution and eliminated Puritan sexual attitudes as Stone said:

What led to this sexual revolution in the '60s? How did we get from 'No sex before marriage' to 'If it feels good do it'? The answer is simple. Hippies. The Hippie Movement had a profound influence on sexual freedom in the U.S. and elsewhere. (...) It was a release from all social inhibitions that characterized hippies. (Stone 15).

Finally the Hippie Movement left a great influence on the evolution of mental, social, and political freedom of the 60's generation thanks to changes that happened which reached their dreams of freedom and changed their social life in significant ways. It seems that the hippie subculture influenced American society with different ways and in spite of their willingness of drug abuse and sexual orientation they left a positive impact on society, they had stop seeing sex as a taboo and started to help poor people and considered all people equal in addition that they gained the respect of the public and considered as a part of the American culture; this in turn is due to their inspiration and influence by the transcendentalist movement .

2.2.2.3. The Civil Rights Movement

Although the United States of America announced the declaration of emancipation before 100 years ago, but the African-American still live in a world obviously unequal by need of rights, racial discrimination and several forms of repression. Laws of Jim Crow have been attended at the resident and state levels from classrooms, theaters, judges and judicial assemblies. In 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States abolished the doctrine of "separate but equal", which formed the basis for state discrimination, depicted national and international attention to the standoff of African-Americans.

But 100 years later the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later the life of the Negro is still badly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the

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chains of discrimination. One hundred years later the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. Out hundred years later the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself in exile in his own land. (Luther 01).

The sixties in America and the part that pursued was a decade of conflict because civil rights protestors used nonviolent protest and civil rebellion to make the change, and made the federal government a legislative Head of creativities such as the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Many leaders from African-American society have risen to celebrity during the civil rights period, such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Andrew Goodman and others. They were at risk and some of them they lost their lives in the name of freedom and equality.

Many slides of the population, especially African-Americans, women and men without property, had no rights at all; they did not have full citizenship rights in the US Republic, Civil Rights Movement and even the conflicts of freedom which has been a common feature of the nation's history. In particular, movements to obtain the civil rights of African-American have particular historical significance.

The first stage of Black Protest activity began in the post-Brown period, with the civil rights activist Rosa Parks who refused to hand her seat by bus to a white passenger, on December 1, 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama; this is led to Montgomery County and other efforts to end the segregation. It is also led to a challenge a southern tradition that asked African-American to give seats toward the front of the buses to whites. When she was jailed, a black community boycott of the city's buses began. This shows the unity and determination of black population and the inspiration of African-American elsewhere. Martin Luther King Jr. said in his speech that:

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. (Luther 05).

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Martin Luther King Jr., who was a non-conformist transcendentalist in society, was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia and died in 1968. He was a social activist and leader of Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s till his death. Martin Luther King Jr. played a key role in ending the legal separation of African-American citizens in America through his activity and speeches, such as his famous speech *I Have a Dream* which was very common at the time. He created the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The King also won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among several other honors. Despite his assassination, his popularity still exists and continues to be remembered as the famous leader of Civil Rights Movement in history.

In addition, Martin Luther King, Jr. also known as the leader of the boycott movement; he had unique appealing and oral skills. He realized the importance of the boycott and soon recognized that the nonviolent tactics employed by Mahatma Gandhi, an Indian citizen, could be used by southern blacks.

For more than 40 years, Martin Luther King Jr. increased America with his speech *I have a Dream*, in August 1963, it was known as one of the best speeches ever because it gave a great hope to African-American to become as free as whites. His growing speech-making of racial justice and an integrated society has become a slogan for African-American society, as is common to subsequent generations of Americans, such as the Declaration of American Independence. His words proved to be a test for understanding social and political confusion at that time and gave the nation language to express what was happening. The main message in the speech is that all people are created equal, if not the case in America at that time; the king saw that it must be the case for the future.

I say to you today, my friends, though, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. (Luther 04)

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In this quote, Luther said that he still has a hope, that one day, the Africans will be free and equal although the difficulties and the problems that have faced today.

Emerson also spoke about freedom; he mentioned that there is no difference between a black man and white man. In other words he said that there is no difference between a thinking American who have in a pencil or a bill exchange in his pocket and a naked New Zealander, in contrast he asked to compare the health of the two men and you will see the white man has lost his original strength. Emerson meant that people never judge others of their color or behavior but they should evaluate his ethics and education. Emerson said that:

What a contrast between the well-clad, reading, writing, thinking American, with a watch, a pencil, and a bill of exchange in his pocket, and the naked New Zealander, whose property is a club, a spear, a mat, and an undivided twentieth of a shed to sleep under! But compare the health of the two men, and you shall see that the white man has lost his aboriginal strength. (Emerson 47).

Additionally, Martin Luther King Jr. also asked for freedom and equality; He said:

When we allow freedom to ring-when we let it ring from every city and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all (If God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, Free at last, Great God a-mighty, we are free at last. (Luther 06)

In these words, the king confirmed that freedom and equality will be determines in one way or another when he repeated the sentence "free at last, free at last". He also spoke to remind the crowd that people are all human, and they must be treated equally and humanly.

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In another hand, Emerson still defended freedom and equality, he always stated that everyone has the right to do whatever he wants and his life is for him not for another one, he has the right to speak, to prefer, or refuse. He stated:

My life is for itself and not for a spectacle. I much prefer that it should be of a lower strain, so it be genuine and equal, than that it should be glittering and unsteady. I wish it to be sound and sweet, and not to need diet and bleeding. I ask primary evidence that you are a man, and refuse this appeal from the man to his actions. (Emerson 30)

2.2.2.3.1. The Black Panthers

In October, 1965, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale formed a group of political army called the Black Panthers that come to defend the African-American rights. The central goal of this group was to put an end the racial discrimination and reforms the American society to realize social, political and economic equality for African-American. Their clothes were very special; they always wore black things such as black trousers, black leather jackets, black berets and blue shirts.

The Black Panthers have also defended Africans to protect their populations from the exploitations of the police. In another hand, the divisions and problems that happened in this party caused the decrease of its political power at the end of 1970s. The civil rights reforms were insufficient because they did not solve problems that have faced the poor Africans and the African-American citizenship; this made many fans of black liberation to be influenced by the black nationalism of Elijah Mohamed, Malcolm X and African leaders.

In addition, supporters of racial liberation had often witnessed the struggle for African freedom such as a movement for human rights and the national self-determination of all peoples. Emerson stated that:

The world has been instructed by its kings, who have so magnetized the eyes of nations. It has been taught by this colossal symbol the mutual reverence that is due from man to man. The joyful loyalty with which men have everywhere

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suffered the king, the noble, or the great proprietor to walk among them by a law of his own, make his own scale of men and things, and reverse theirs, pay for benefits not with money but with honor, and represent the law in his person, was the hieroglyphic by which they obscurely signified their consciousness of their own right and comeliness, the right of every man. Emerson 36).

2.2.3. Popular culture From the 60's and Forward

The popular culture of 60's, 70's and 80's were very important because it witnessed many changes in music, movies and television programs that have created the new globalized and western world.

The 60's in America witnessed the appearance of a new kind of music, dancing and color TV. Books were also very popular at this time such as *To Kill the Emulator*, *Valley of the Dolls*. Popular bands also play an important role in the 60's such as *The Beatles*, and *rock n' roll* artists such as Elvis Presley. On another hand, influential orators were very famous at that period such as Martin Luther King Jr. who was popular with his famous speech: *I Have a Dream*. Literature, art, dance and theater knew a remarkable period of growth and change during the 1960s. New experimental art models such as pop art and events drew public attention to artistic expositions. Literary artists have challenged traditional ideas about fantasy and poetry. Increased financial support from the government and private donors has opened up new museums and regional theaters and has helped art galleries, dance and musical performances tour the country. Increased artistic publicity, theater, dance and music have brought more audiences to museums and performances than ever before. In particular, young people were encouraged to develop their own artistic talents during the 1960s in workshops, dance schools and regional theaters that doubled throughout the country.

Singers, artists and even dancers got influenced from Emerson's thoughts and ideas through his writings especially *Self-Reliance* essay, this is what led many of them giving songs and works that can be related to *Self-Reliance*.

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2.2.3.1. Music in the 60's

What a Wonderful World is a song by Louis Armstrong in 1967. It is the first example of transcendentalism and how Armstrong was influenced by Emerson's thoughts and ideas. The lyrics of this song show the idea that people are born innocent and good and show the simplicity of transcendentalism, especially when he said "the bright blessed day" and "the colors of the rainbow". Growth, friendship, nature and the goodness of men are evidently represented in this song. He showed that there is beauty for growth in life, which is a concept of transcendentalism. He stated: "I hear babies cry, I watch them grow, they'll learn much more than I'll ever know, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world". Emerson in his essay *Self-Reliance* also spoke about beauty saying:

Beauty, convenience, grandeur of thought, and quaint expression are as near to us as to any, and if the American artist will study with hope and love the precise thing to be done by him, considering the climate, the soil, the length of the day, the wants of the people, the habit and form of the government, he will create a house in which all these will find themselves fitted, and taste and sentiment will be stashed also. (Emerson 46).

In this quotation Emerson focused on beauty and love and how that comfort, greatness of thought and strange expression are closer to people. He also explained the idea that the American artist should study and work with hope to show his talent in many domains to be unique and friendly man; this is considered as a concept of transcendentalism.

2.2.3.2. Music in the 70's

The Beatles was a famous band in Britain which was formed by the prominent singer John Winston Lennon who was inspired by the explosion of Elvis Presley on the rock music; this pushed him to create this group which first called the Quarry Men. Lennon met Paul McCartney in 1957 and invited him to join his group; they ultimately formed the most successful songwriting enterprise in musical history. In the following year, both George Harrison and buddy Stuart Sutcliffe joined Lennon's band which finally

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settled on Pete Best in 1960. The Beatles were discovered by Brian Epstein in 1961 at Liverpool's Cavern Club, where they released their first single *Love Me Do* in October 1962 and become the most popular band in Britain. Lennon left the Beatles in 1969 and later released albums with his wife Yoko Ono. He was killed on December 8, 1980, by a crazy fan called Mark David Chapman. He stated that:

If someone thinks that peace and love are just a cliché that should have been left behind in the '60s, that's a problem. Peace and love are eternal. John Lennon.

John Lennon really influenced by Emerson's words, this is why, his songs were always about peace, hope and individuality such as the song *Imagine* which was released in 1971 and have an exceptional relation to transcendentalist thinking. Through this song, Lennon tried to imagine the world without war, corruption or hate; he just thought of positive things such as peace and hope, he imagined life without hunger and greed as an individual. John Lennon discussed how the world should be peaceful and how people should forget all the materialistic things by saying: "Imagine all the people, living life in peace".

In the lyrics "Imagine no possessions I wonder if you can", he urged the audience that they could get very enclosed in what they have, and they cannot even imagine life without those properties.

The lyrics: "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.", also represents transcendental thinking because it describes the idea how there should be courage and no fear of dreams that are imagined and believed in, because it is a universal feeling.

Emerson in his *Self-Reliance* essay also called for peace and hope and spoke about individuality, saying:

Insist on yourself; never imitate. Your own gift you can present every moment with the cumulative force of a whole life's cultivation; but of the adopted talent of another, you have only an extemporaneous, half possession. That which each can do best, none but his Maker can teach him. No man yet knows

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what it is, nor can, till that person has exhibited it. Where is the master who could have taught Shakespeare? Where is the master who could have instructed Franklin, or Washington, or Bacon, or Newton? Every great man is a unique. (Emerson 46).

In this quotation, Emerson focused on individuality and how people should be individual and unique; he said that people should not imitate because they have a talent that should be developed. He gave the example of Shakespeare, Franklin, Washington, Bacon and Newton; he said “every great man is unique” which means that all these writers work on themselves to be unique.

2.2.3.3. Music in the 80’s

Michael Jackson was also one of the singers who have been influenced by Emerson's writings; he obviously showed transcendentalism through the song *Man in the mirror* in 1987. In this song Jackson focuses on the idea of changing and believed that he needed to change his ways by saying: “I’m starting with the man in the mirror, I’m asking him to change his ways.” “The only obligation I have a right to assume is to do any time what I think is right.”

Michael Jackson represented the goodness of humanity and respect of human beings, when he said “I’m you wanna make the world a better place, then take a look at yourself and make a change”. He believed that if you want to make the world as a good place, you have first to change yourself and change your ways. “I’ve been a victim of a selfish kind of love”. “What I must do, is all that concerns me, not what the people think.” Both two lyrics reflect the importance of free individual expression. Jackson here explains that everyone should express himself how he wants, not how others want him to be by saying: “I’m gonna make a change it’s gonna feel real good!” Jackson believed that the change he is making is going to feel good.

However, Emerson thought that it is genius to believe your own thought. He said “To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men, that is genius”. (Emerson 26)

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Emerson also stated that everyone should express himself and mentioned that the soul creates the art as well as the world, saying:

The soul created the arts wherever they have flourished. It was in his own mind that the artist sought his model. It was an application of his own thought to the thing to be done and the conditions to be observed. (Emerson 46).

Subdivisions by Rush, is also a song that released in 1982, it shows the conformity of society. Although this song has been for a while, it shows that corruption in society continues through decades. The lyrics “Opinions all provided, the future pre-decided” and “growing up it all seems so one sided” represent the evil that attract the individuality of human being in society, this is mean that it is hard to be yourself in the world. As a result this song represents the corruptness of conformity vs. individualism. Emerson also spoke of individualism, showing that art teaches man how to be individual and self-reliant without using imitation and corruption, he said:

Great works of art have no more affecting lesson for us than this. They teach us to abide by our spontaneous impression with good-humored inflexibility then most when the whole cry of voices is on the other side. (Emerson 27).

2.3. Transcendentalism Nowadays

Transcendentalism has left great impact on the American society during the 19th century and till now. The impact influences society and literature. Emerson wanted to explain the sense of newness of what many felt to be the initiation of a new era in human history, the period of transcendentalism created a successful movement thanks to transcendentalists and their literature. In the 1830's and 1840's transcendental works emerged and built new approach involved political, social, and cultural issues. Transcendentalism existed through decades in each decades known with a new name; its core ideas and impact has worked and exists long time and till now.

In many decade pressure in American society was always present but always something relieves, energy, like modernity in the air before the snow comes with pure

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breath and psychological comfort; it is Emerson's ghost turn through decade with his ideal ideas. He speaks with an instinct language; it is the American instinct.

2.3.1. President Barack Obama

The president Barack Obama is one of the presidents who were influenced by transcendentalism in this decade; becoming the 44th president of the United States of America on November 4th, 2008. He was born in Hawaii on August 4th, 1961 and served two terms as the first African-American to preside.

The fact that President is an African-American and had non-traditional religious was not a handicap to realize his dreams and presenting a changing in America, President Barack Obama challenged the world to govern all the African-American and whites. His parents are from completely different world; he is a son of black Kenyan father and white Kansan mother. When President Barack Obama nominated himself to the presidency many Americans started to be doubted just because of the fact that he was a black person, they thought that they do not need more evidence of President Obama's skin color to doubt his capacities but he could realize his goals since explicit racism is not highly existed nowadays, but what really appears in social in Republican circles and beyond, is xenophobia, this fear issue from the others was the major theme to discredit President Obama's personality, because of these facts some Americans started to wink and nudge the others to open their eyes that President Obama was not the suitable president for the U.S since he had a black skin, an African-American, and a son of Kenyan Muslim father and Kansan mother born in Kenya (Hawaii), another conspiracy theory is that political Republicans warned that President Obama was a secret Muslim in addition that he was considered as a socialist.

Despite these negative visions President Obama was strong enough to face these difficulties to win the elections aptly. President Obama hated segregation he said that:

“Going forward, we must uphold laws against discrimination . . . But laws alone won't be enough. Hearts must change.”

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Since the emergence of transcendentalism and till now, transcendentalism still a part of American culture skillfully. The president Barack Obama gave a speech in which he refreshed transcendentalism ideas; President Obama in his web site page stated that:

“I'm asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington . . . I'm asking you to believe in yours”

President Obama encouraged citizens to promote the healthy skepticism of the self and the recognition of their own competence, in addition to gain self-confidence and explore the inner energy in order to create their own career. In another speech he said that: “win the future” this is the President Obama's slogan for his State of the Union address; he used this slogan 11 times in a matter of emphasizing, he argued that to win the future, it is important to be subject to great innovations in our nation, this is close to transcendentalism because transcendentalist criticized society for unconscious conformity Consistent with nature.

Depending on the fact that transcendentalists are non-conformists, it seems that it has a far-reaching effect on nowadays thinking, President Obama claimed that if man want to win the future, he must create something bold and different by investing new technologies, building better roads, and ameliorate his financial and educational systems; that is to say he cannot get better by doing the same things that he always does. To be at the top it needed a change in order to maintain position. Basically, this took the position of Transcendentalist thinking that to win the future, generation should not follow the same path of the ancient generations, but must change and ameliorate the own path to greatness.

2.3.2. President Donald Trump:

Self-Reliance has always been around in many times; it will be the major example in the face of leaders from the past to the present because presidents show great self-confidence in governing the United States such as president Donald Trump who is a real estate mogul and a former television star. He was born in 1946 in Queens, New

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York. The president Donald Trump is an example of transcendentalism in the mass media with his open confidence; he is considered as one of the famous out-spoken in the public in the United States because he is one of the leaders who hold the transcendental concept of individualism and believes in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay *Self-Reliance*. He is famous by his strong personality and characterized by his self-confidence because he believes in Emerson's slogan, "Trust thyself"; this was seen in many interviews especially the one he did with Bill O'Reilly, because he warned president Trump putting certain topics in his movement marches and doing some action, president Trump replied: "Bill, I'm a winner." He has confidence in himself and his ability to win debates, and has succeeded in becoming the party's candidate for the president of the United States, and later on to in the presidency.

He is famous for his vibrant controversial spirit and he never lets his enemies gain an argument against him. Whenever you see president Trump, you can observe his confidence in his opinion and principles. "I like thinking big. If you're going to be thinking anything, you might as well think big" Donald Trump.

President Trump, before his election, was involved by large and beneficial construction projects in Manhattan such as Grand Hyatt which made him the most famous developer in the city. President Trump first started as a television star, he was very famous in this domain such as TV shows, and he also began featuring in the hit series NBC *Novice* series, which generated off the *Celebrity Apprentice* branch. After television, president Trump turned his attention to politics; he announced the creation of an investigative committee to report his decision of the Reform Party for the 2000 presidential election. In 2015 he announced his candidacy for the President of the United States on the Republican ticket. President Trump became a Republican presidential candidate on July 19th 2016, and in November he became the 45th President of the United States.

President Trump was very famous by his University of profitability that offers lessons in real estate, achievement and wealth management. When the electioneering began, he was accused of fraud, corruption and the false advertising by the claimants because of his university. At the time of the presidency, his project was under

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examination since its beginning. So trump fell in great trouble, he refused all the accuses and said suggested that US District Court Judge Gonzalo Curial could not be impartial in control two class action cases because of his Mexican heritage. On 18 November 2016, president Trump, who had previously pledged to refer the case to trial, settled three cases against \$ 25 million without admitting responsibility. In a statement made by New York Attorney General Eric Schneider man, he called for the settlement of “a stunning coup by President Donald Trump and a great victory for the victims of more than 6,000 of his fake university.” As a result of the incorrect donation to the lawyer general's campaign, president Trump was essential to pay the IRS a consequence and his basis came under inspection about the use of its assets for non-charitable activities. Additionally, according to tax accounts, The Trump Substance itself was found to have no helpful gifts from President Donald Trump since 2008 and that all assistances since that time have come from external aids to the Trump Foundation.

In another side, the personal life of the President Donald trump was very notorious because he married three women; the first one was Ivana Zelnickoa Winklmayr, a New York fashion model who had been an alternate on the 1972 Czech Olympic Ski Team. The couple had two sons (Donald John Trump Jr. and Eric) and one daughter (Ivanka). This marriage has gone through a highly publicized divorce which was finalized in 1992. For the second time, the president married Marla Maples in 1993; she was an actress who had already a daughter named Tiffany, this marriage also ended with divorce in 1997.

In January 2005, he got married for the third time with the Slovenian model Melania Knauss, who is much younger than him. Among the many celebrity guests at the wedding were Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton. Their son, Baron William Trump, was born in March 2006.

All of this made President Trump one of the most controversial presidents of all time, since he transcended most of the standards, values and rules that presidents are supposed to follow or rule with.

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It is not only because of President Donald Trump that the country has become so non-conformist, but also because of its economy, justice system, corporate media and foreign policy.

2.4. Conclusion

Transcendentalism is a movement that haven't an end, it renewed every era with new characters and intellectuals. Every time it modernized with new known faces but the core beliefs and attitudes stay original. They admired Emerson's beliefs, ideas, and values and reformulate it with new behaviors. Emerson's essay *Self-Reliance* transformed important messages to people through decades, it hold big sense of freedom, individuality, self-trust, self-confidence, non-conformity, and independence. Emerson in his essay *Self-Reliance* tackled with big issues that influenced the nineteenth's century society and forward; which is personnel freedom and neglect all what is strict. His view is to help people to be free and get independence to be more civilized and intellectual. Emerson's transcendentalist movement succeeded in making a big influence; his ideas exist till now with a great success.

General Conclusion

Transcendentalism is one of the most influential movements that reflect the American society in the 19th century, where individuals were dissatisfied and oppressed by society and government. The aim of this research work is to draw parallels between Emerson's American transcendentalism of the 19th century and the new decades emphasizing on the 60's which have roots that go back to the late 18th and early decades of the 19th century with its discretion. The study of the essay of Ralph Waldo Emerson *Self-Reliance* is very important because of its great impact on the American people through decades. Transcendentalism in the 19th contributed to the emergence of new movement with its harmony with nature, its rebellion, and its spiritual freedom. All these aspects are true for transcendentalism; this concept goes hand in hand with idealism which holds a strong meaning of pure decisions. In this thesis the central aim is to analyze how Ralph Waldo Emerson broke the norms of American society in the 19th century and forward.

The focus is in the analyses on political, social, and cultural similarities between transcendentalism and other new decades such as the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and nowadays. The 19th century witnessed many changes thanks to such doctrines such transcendentalism, due to such amendment many movements emerged in different time basing on transcendental principles and Emerson's influence and reputation on the American society such as Civil Rights movement, the Beat Generation, the Hippie Movement, and Black Panthers. Presidents, leaders and artists also were influenced by such a great character through time such as: The president John F. Kennedy, The president Ronald Reagan, The president Barack Obama, and the current president of the U.S Donald Trump. In addition to the leader Martin Luther King Jr. And Artists like, Louis Armstrong, the Beatles, and Michael Jackson.

All these characters from the both eras had one aim is to be free far from conformity and commitment. Emerson's message in *Self-Reliance* is that individuals must become independent in their actions and behaviors; he sought to prove the theory that non-conformity is the best solution for individuals; they should consciously admit that they are a part of God in order to achieve independent because they are in direct contact

General Conclusion

with God and nature, individuals are responsible for their lives because they are creative, this built a great impact on the new decades which is appeared clearly.

Transcendentalism's existence in the 19th century is a justified matter, but what is not clearly known is the existence of transcendentalism nowadays. Some say it does and some say it does not, and the analysis, proved that transcendentalism still partially exists till now. Despite the fact that transcendentalism is not popular as it was during the 19th century, but it held a great impact on the American society. The importance of nature always appears because nature is constant around people, especially for those who take a lot of time to watch nature and take pictures to admire it. Self-Reliance/Confidence is always present, a great example is in the profile of leaders and presidents from the past to the present; they present great Self-Reliance through their governance which is not an easy task. Finally transcendentalism still exists with a great impact on society, politics, and culture that keeps on going.

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