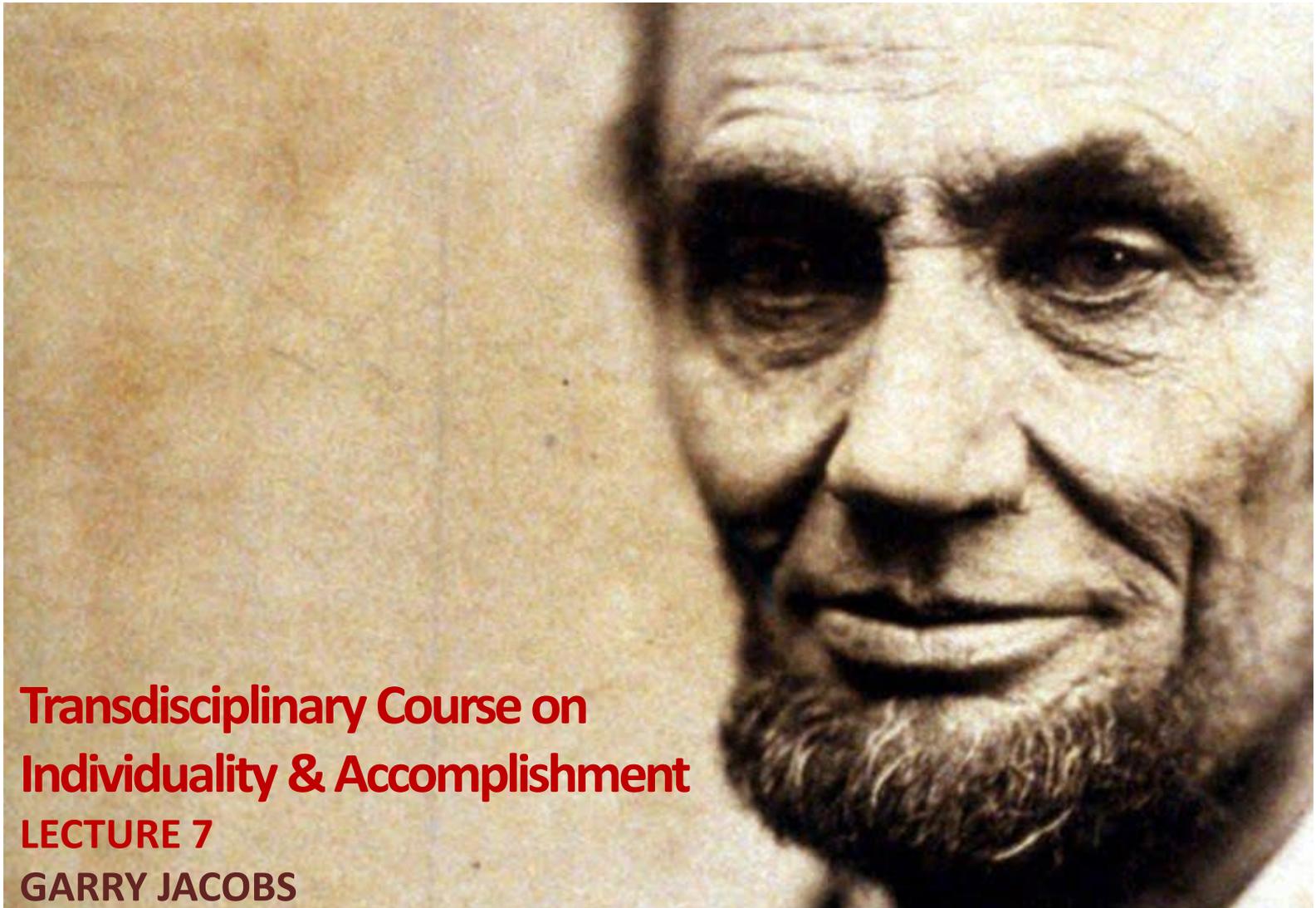


# INDIVIDUALITY AND SOCIETY



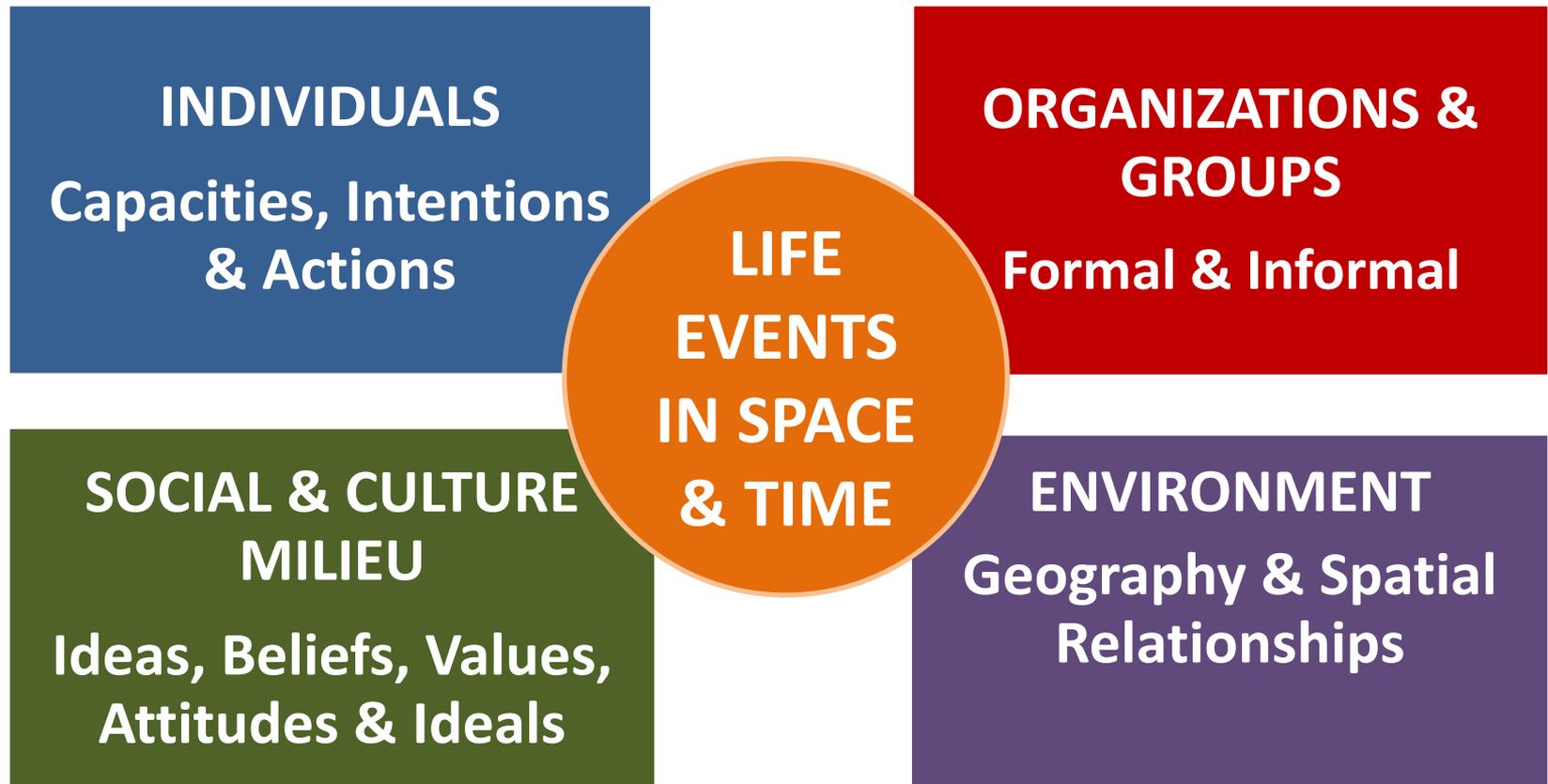
**Transdisciplinary Course on  
Individuality & Accomplishment**

**LECTURE 7**

**GARRY JACOBS**

# Contributing Factors

Accomplishment is a product of interactions between different levels of our existence



# One Man can Change the World



**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”**

***Margaret Mead***

# America in 1861

**Agrarian South vs. Industrial North**

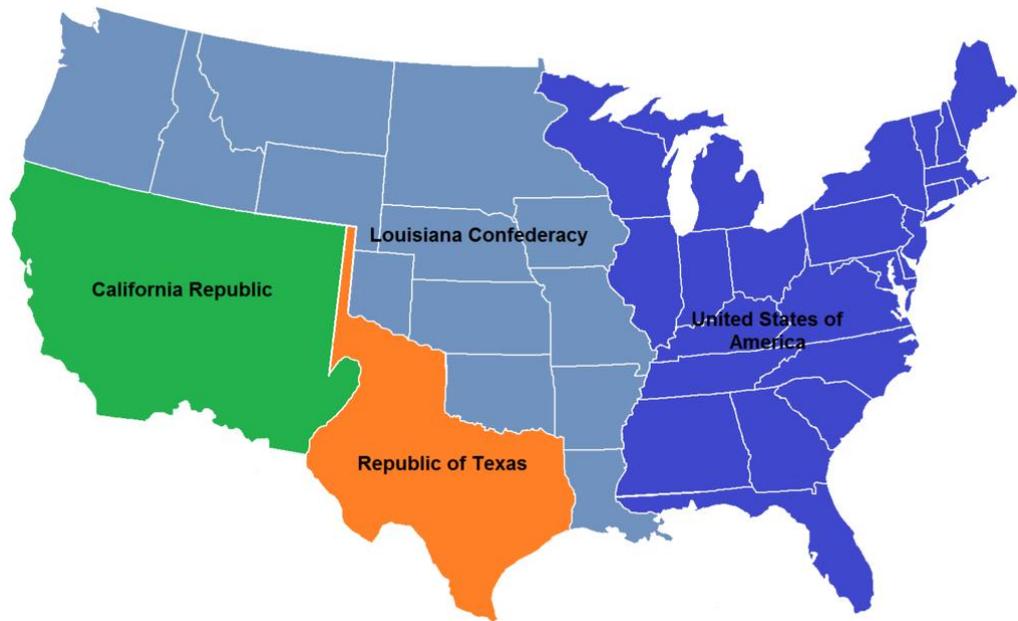
**Southern cotton was vital for European Industry & Employment**

**Democrats supported Slavery & States Rights**

**Republicans supported Freedom & Unity**

# Manifest Destiny: American States

- **Texas (1845)**
- **Florida (1845)**
- **Wisconsin (1848)**
- **California (1850)**
- **Nevada (1854)**
- **Oregon (1859)**
- **Kansas (1861)**
- **Homestead Act (1862): 160 acres of land to 600,000 settlers to settle in 6 “free” territories – Nebraska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Dakotas**



# 1861: A Nation divided & in peril

- **Most crucial turning point in American history**
- **America was confederation with weak central govt**
- **Ideal of equality remained a dream on paper**
- **Few Americans favored real racial integration**
- **Slavery legal in 11 of 33 states with plantation economies dependent on slave labor**
- **Westward expansion opened up new territories**
- **Slavery was in slow retreat throughout Europe**
- **Europe needed Southern cotton for their industry**
- **South wanted to extend slavery to new territories**
- **1861 South formed CSA & started the war**

# Lincoln – The Man

- **Born in a log cabin in the wilderness in 1809**
- **Raised in extreme poverty**
- Self-educated
- **Country lawyer, surveyor and post master**
- **Entered politics opposing the spread of slavery**
- **Elected to Congress for a single term in 1846**
- **Ran for Senate and lost**
- **Elected president by minority popular vote**



# Lincoln – the President

- ✓ Branded a second-rate country lawyer without experience
- ✓ Thought to be weak, idealistic (unrealistic) and indecisive
- ✓ New England elite looked down on the ‘commoner’
- ✓ No support or respect in Washington
- ✓ He formed bipartisan cabinet to preserve unity
- ✓ Cabinet members thought they could control him
- ✓ His military commander refused to obey his instructions
- ✓ Abolitionists pressed for law banning slavery
- ✓ Congress wanted end of war without abolishing slavery
- ✓ When elected he was given one aide

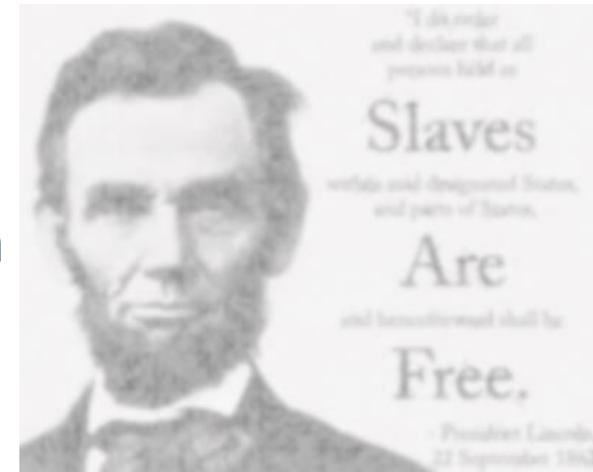
# Military Situation

- **Confederacy controlled**
  - **All federal agencies, forts, weapons in South**
  - **Mississippi River – lifeblood of nation’s commerce**
  - **All the experienced military leaders**
- **Northern army of only 16,000 was scattered, disorganized and inexperienced, including many Southern sympathizers, and generals who competed with one another.**
- **Lincoln’s chief of the army refused to engage the enemy and wanted to be next president**
- **England and France secretly armed the South**
- **South won all the early victories**



# Turning Point

- Country seemed to verge of be splitting apart
- Lincoln waited with enormous patience
- Lee invaded and then retreated from Maryland
- Kentucky refused to support Southern invasion
- Lincoln demanded McClelland attack Virginia
- Immediately after the news of Northern victory, he wrote the Emancipation Proclamation
- Congress passes it by narrow margin
- European abolitionists supported the North
- The tide of the war turned



# Outcome & Consequences

- ❑ **North won the war and USA was reunited**
- ❑ **In 1865, Congress passed the 13th amendment abolishing slavery everywhere on US soil**
- ❑ **By 1900 the US economy was larger in size than the UK, Germany and France combined – producing 1/3rd of total global output.**
- ❑ **Had Lincoln failed, the country would have split into 2 or possibly a dozen pieces**
- ❑ **Rise of USA to global economic and military supremacy would never have happened**
- ❑ **Discrimination against blacks persisted in the South for another 100 years**

# Questions about Lincoln's Achievement

How could one man influence the course of history so dramatically?

Where did he acquire that power?

What capacities of his made it possible?

What was the process by which he achieved it?

What made him so unique?

How did he convert extreme challenge into unimaginable opportunity for America?

Was it luck, chance, or ability that enabled him to overcome impossible circumstances?

# Macrocosm and Microcosm

## PHYSICAL WORLD

- An infinite macrocosm of planets, stars, solar systems, and galaxies
- An invisible microcosm of infinitesimal particles, atoms, molecules and cells
- Newtonian world we live in lies between them and interacts with both

## HUMAN WORLD

- Outer social macrocosm of family, community, national and global society
- Inner psychological microcosm of thoughts, feelings, beliefs, opinions, aspirations, urges, impulses and sensation
- Individual human being lives between them with feet in both world

# Accomplishment & Knowledge - 2 Processes

**Accomplishment First,  
Then Knowledge**

We achieve first, then  
we understand how

**We learn largely by  
doing**

We accumulate our  
learning and codify it

**Knowledge First, Then  
Accomplishment**

Later consciously  
transmit it to others  
as education, so they  
can learn before they  
act

**We become conscious by experience  
Then we organize for effectiveness**

# Consciousness & Organization

*“Life evolves through growth of consciousness.  
Consciousness evolves through greater  
organization and perfection of life: a greater  
consciousness means a greater life.”*

**SRI AUROBINDO**

# Consciousness

- Growing awareness of self and world
- Acquired personally by observation, experience and reflection
- Transmitted through family, education, training, culture and experience

# Living Organizations

**Organization is the capacity of mind to create order, structure and process**

**Society is a complex living organization**

**Human personality is a complex organism**

**Both are organizations of energy, ideas, attitudes, emotions, intentions, capacities & power**

**Organization expresses the power of the human mind for orderly expression of consciousness**

# Organization of Social Energies

- Social energy expresses in **ACTS**
- The ACT is the basis unit of social energy
- Acts are physical, interpersonal, mental, psychological
- Acts are linked together to form chains & structures consisting of

**Actions – Activities – Systems – Functions**  
**Coordination – Integration**

# Organization of Psychological Energies

- Psychological energy expresses in psychological **ACTS**
- The ACT is the basis unit of psychological energy
- Acts are physical, perceptual, emotional, mental, spiritual
- Perceptions, thoughts, emotions, desires, impulses are psychological acts
- Energy is coordinated & integrated to form chains and structures
  - Physical energies form **Skill & Habits**
  - Vital energies form complex **Traits**
  - Emotional energies form **Attitudes, Sentiments & Motives**
  - Mental energies form **Thoughts, Opinions & Ideas**
  - Spiritual energies form **Ideals, Aspirations & Values**

# Social Capital

Society is a teeming ocean of human energies and capacities – unorganized but latent with unlimited productive potential

The organization of social energies and capacities converts social potential into social capital

Society is an infinitely complex network or web of interrelationships

The enormous power of society for accomplishment issues from this organization

# Human Capital

Each member of society is an unorganized reservoir of energies, aspirations and capacities

Organization of the energies and capacities of each member of society through family, education, training, culture & experience converts human potential into human capital

# The Individual is the Link

- The Individual is a freely formed **self-organization** of psychological energies and capacities positively integrated with the social organization
- The formed Individual is the summit of social evolution where human capital & social capital intersect and become infinitely productive

[insert image of intersection]

# Human & Social Complexity

The social macrocosm strikes our senses by its enormous size, variety, incredible speed and the complexity of the interactions between its component elements

The psychological microcosm consists of an uncountable number of thoughts, feelings, perceptions,, sensations, impressions, desires, impulses, urges, opinions, beliefs, sentiments cross our consciousness every day at lightning speed, too fast for us to even perceive most of them

All of them combine together in complex ways to define our conscious and unconscious experience and our behavior

Take away one or the other and what will we be left with?

# HUMAN ACCOMPLISHMENT

Every individual carries within the cumulative experience of all humankind in essence

Yet every moment individuals are altering that collective reality & adding to that experience

Human accomplishment is a product of this interaction

# Individuals are Catalysts of Change

Individuals  
are products  
of society

Societies are  
products of  
individual  
initiative

Individual are  
the catalysts  
of social  
change

Human  
catalysts  
precipitate  
events

# How do individuals access social power?

**SOCIAL  
POWER**



**Lincoln identified with the aspiration of all Americans for freedom and unity**

**Sears & Rosenwald created an organization to fulfil the aspirations of the rural community**

**Fred Smith identified with the aspiration for speed & designed an organization to meet it**

**Google, Amazon, Facebook plugged into the power of social organization of the Internet**

# LINCOLN'S PERSONALITY

- ✓ High idealistic values, honesty & integrity
- ✓ Devoted to equal rights for all
- ✓ Man 'of the people' sensitive to the will of the people
- ✓ Respected others & related to all on equal basis
- ✓ Determined to preserve the nation
- ✓ Convinced that slavery was evil, must be abolished
- ✓ Self-effacing humility many mistook for weakness
- ✓ Inner strength & determination of his convictions
- ✓ Forged alliances with antagonists
- ✓ Character free of personal resentment
- ✓ Capable of immense patience – knew when not to act
- ✓ Continuously learning – 3Rs, law, military science

# What was the source of Lincoln's power to accomplishment?

**The power he wielded belonged to the society**

**His one goal was to discern what the public will would sanction**

**He recognized that the primary aspiration of the country was unity**

**He acquired power by eliminating his ego and identifying with the will social**

# Lincoln's Accomplishment

- **His personality became a channel for the deeper aspirations to become conscious**
- **His actions enabled the abounding energies of a young nation to become organized as the strength of the expanding American nation**
- **His accomplishment altered future aspirations, acting as inspiration for future initiatives**

# Rosa Parks – a sequel

