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Cooper's Ideal in the New World: Conflict between Wilderness and Civilization

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Abstract

James Fenimore Cooper is the first writer who grappled squarely with the problems which prevailed in American society at that time, in the novels of The Leather Stocking Tales. In these novels he dealt with the conflict between civilization and wilderness on matters of morality, law, and race which would turn out to have been the main social problems in the New World in those days. The characters in the novels probably reflect Cooper's ideas about those matters.

Therefore, in this paper, I explore how Cooper creates and expresses the characters in the novels to indicate his idea of the problems of the New World and what conclusions he reached on the conflict or dilemma between civilization and wilderness to seek his ideal in the New World through *The Pioneers*, *The Last of Mohicans* and *The Deerslayer* in The Leather Stocking Tales.
