

Honors US History I  
Summer Reading Assignment  
Mr. Tirri

**Texts:**

1. Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States 1492-Present*. New York: Harper Collins, 1999.
2. Tuttle, Brad. *How Newark Became Newark: the Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of an American City*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rivergate, 2009.

**Assignment:**

Students will read the specific chapters assigned, and answer the following open-ended questions. Students should use specific examples to back up their opinions in these questions. Students will turn in their responses in typed, double-spaced format at the beginning of the school year.

Students may email the teacher, Mr. Vincent Tirri at [vtir@rutherfordschools.org](mailto:vtir@rutherfordschools.org) if they have any questions regarding the reading or questions. The Tuttle packet will also be available on Mr. Tirri's Google Site (<http://sites.google.com/site/rhstirri>).

**Zinn Chapters & Questions:**

*Chapter 1, Columbus, the Indians and Human Progress:* Howard Zinn presents a view that is not traditionally seen when learning about the first encounters between Europeans and Native Americans. In your opinion, what was the most shocking aspect of this view? What made it shocking to you? Use specific examples when writing your response.

*Chapter 2, Drawing the Color Line:* The issue of race in the United States is one of the driving forces of American History. Zinn gives what can be viewed as a background history of how racial identity and racial bias was first established in the U.S. In your opinion, what was the most significant first step towards establishing a society that would be legally dominated by whites until the 1960s?

*Chapter 3, Persons of Mean and Vile Condition:* The idea of class struggle has been a part of American History since the colonial era. In a country that is founded upon capitalist principles there is inevitably inequality. In your opinion how does class struggle begin in the United States? What are the major causes of class struggle in the early colonial period? Use the previous chapters when formulating your answer.

**Tuttle:**

*Introduction & Chapter 1:* Newark is the largest, and most influential city in New Jersey. It is also, as President Johnson's quote in the introduction would suggest, a lens through which we can examine American history from the colonial to the modern era. In Howard Zinn's text we see the presentation of what we call "social history". How do the issues that Zinn addresses appear in Newark's history? Use examples from Tuttle and Zinn to support your answer.