

Texts:

1. Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States 1492-Present*. New York: Harper Collins, 1999.
2. Newman & Schmalbach. *United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination*. New York: Amsco School Publications, 2006.

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 Mrs. Ferlauto at jferlauto@rutherfordschools.org if they have any questions regarding the reading or questions.

Zinn Chapters & Questions:

Chapter 9, Slavery Without Submission, Emancipation Without Freedom: Discuss the effects of the institution of slavery in America, slave rebellions, the Civil War and emancipation on African-Americans. What benefit did the usage of large-scale violence in the form of civil war instead of small-scale violence of slave rebellions provide for the U.S. government? Should we view African-Americans as a "liberated people" or as a group that fought their own struggle and won independence in the tradition of the American Revolution?

Chapter 10, The Other Civil War: Although the Civil War dominated the United States from 1861-1865, other class struggles also erupted during this time period in the form of worker strikes, rise of labor unions and other movements. Discuss government abuses and abuses by corporations at the time and explain the reform efforts taken. What legacy arose from this pattern of struggle in the mid-19th century? How does it still impact us today?

Chapter 11, Robber Barons and Rebels: Between the Civil War and 1900, industrial corporations such as the railroads and banks transformed into the nation's dominant institutions, with corruption resulting in both industry and government. Analyze the rise of these corporations and discuss the popular movements and individuals that opposed corruption. Additionally, consider whether Zinn's labeling of these individuals is fair. Were they actually "Robber Barons" or were they proto-venture capitalists, fulfilling the true economic model of American capitalism?

AP History Chapters:

The chapters in AP History should be read in conjunction with the selections from Howard Zinn to provide a fundamental understanding of the issues Zinn discusses.

Chapter 14: The Civil War, 1861-1865

Chapter 15: Reconstruction, 1863-1877

Chapter 17: The Rise of Industrial America, 1865-1900