

Honors US History I
Summer Reading Assignment
Ms. Bacilo

Text:

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States 1492--Present*. New York: Harper Collins, 1999.

Assignment: Students will read the specific chapters assigned, and answer the following open-ended questions. Students should use several specific examples from the text 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. Each chapter response should be a page long and ideas should be broken up into cohesive paragraphs. Students may email the teacher if they have any questions regarding the reading or questions. **Assignments must be printed, stapled, and ready to hand in at the beginning of the period on the first day of school.**

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?