

## APUSH SUMMER ASSIGNMENT



Dear Advanced Placement United States History student:

Welcome to Advanced Placement U.S. history, affectionately known as APUSH. As in past years, we have created an optional summer assignment. *A People's History of the United States 1492-Present* by Howard Zinn (published by Harper Collins) is a readable and enjoyable examination of American history through the perspective of the “forgotten voices” of our past. Given the current calls for racial justice and equality, we felt that gaining an understanding of the history of race relations in the U.S. would be a good place to begin our study of APUSH. To that end, we are asking that you read or listen to Chapter 2, “Drawing the Color Line.”

Written form: <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/zinnapeopleshistory.html>

Oral form: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IeiPCuqgNyU>

Attached are some guided reading questions that you must answer. This will be due on Monday, October 2, 2023, and you will receive up to 5 extra points on the first unit exam if you choose to complete the attached questions. Responses should be thorough, historically accurate and demonstrate critical thinking. This is an individual assignment and answers must reflect your own thoughts and work. Please be sure to type the assignment in 12-point font, include a proper heading with your name, date, and class period. All students are required to complete the reading even if they do not intend to answer the questions. The reading will be integral to our discussions pertaining to slavery, race, Bacon’s Rebellion, issues of class, economics, and your understanding of U.S. history. Be sure to take notes on the reading.

Happy reading and have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Susan Brumer, Jonathan Joseph & Mark Spiconardi

APUSH Teachers

## **Study Questions for Chapter 2 of A People's History of the United States**

1. What is the thesis of this chapter?
2. According to Zinn, what is the root of racism in America?
3. Why were Africans considered "better" slaves than Indians in Virginia?
4. How did slavery in Africa differ from slavery in Europe and the Americas?
5. Describe the conditions of the enslaved Africans on ships coming to America ("Middle Passage").
6. What was the relationship between slavery and the plantation system?
7. What evidence exists that America's enslaved Africans did not accept their fate easily?
8. Why did slave owners fear poor whites?
9. What did you learn from this chapter that helps you better understand today's current calls for racial justice and equality?