

White Plains High School
550 North St.
White Plains, NY 10605

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 very readable and enjoyable look at American history through the perspective of the 'forgotten voices' of our past. Given the ongoing calls for racial equity and their attendant backlash, we felt that gaining an understanding of the history of race relations in the US 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/ziinapeopleshistory.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 September 30, 2024, and you will receive up to 5 extra points on the first unit exam if you choose to complete the assignment. This is an individual assignment and answers must reflect your own thoughts and work. Responses should be thorough and demonstrate critical thinking. They should be typed in 12-point font. Be sure to have a proper heading with your name, date, and class period.

Happy reading and have a great summer!

Susan Brumer

Mark Spiconardi

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 slaves 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 slaves 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 and its backlash?