

**US I Honors**  
**Summer Assignment Instructions:**  
**Due the first day of school – September 2020**

**Summer Reading Assignment:**

- 1) Read *A Short History of the United States* by Robert Remini – Chapters 1-6 (Found at any book store, library, or Amazon.com)
- 2) Read Chapter 1 – The Meeting of Cultures (Brinkley Textbook “*America: A Survey*”) for the first day of school. The Chapter 1 reading pdf file can be accessed via my school website under “Staff Webpages”
  - Be ready to take an analytical test on the major themes and ideas found within the Brinkley chapter 1 reading on the first day of school.
  - This will be an AP style stimulus based multiple-choice test. It will test your command of the AP Historical Thinking Skills. (Also found on my website)

**Summer Discussion Question Assignment:**

- 1) Complete the Discussion Question (DQ) based off of your understanding of Remini chapters 1-6 reading by answering the prompt below.
  - See the DQ format and sample posted on my website as an example.
  - You should treat your DQ as an outline of a 5-paragraph essay.
  - You will be required to formulate your own arguable thesis, not a simple restating of the prompt.
  - Your DQ should answer the prompt directly and should not be an outline of the reading.
  - If any information in your DQ does not directly relate to or support your thesis it should not be used. (No story telling, fact dumping or fluff)
  - Use the exact same format as the sample DQ found on my website
  - Your conclusion must summarize your three sub-arguments and end with your thesis statement.
  - Your outline should not exceed one page. If you are going beyond one page, practice making your points more succinctly. You may adjust font sizes, but nothing smaller than size 8.

**Summer Discussion Question Prompt:**

**Evaluate the changes in the powers of the United State federal government from the time under the Articles of Confederation through the era of Reconstruction.**

Note:

“The United States federal government went through changes from the time under the Articles of Confederation through the era of Reconstruction.”

Is not an acceptable evaluative thesis. Focus on themes or trends throughout the time period and make an argument about their connections.

The answer to this question is not directly written in your assigned reading. This assignment is assessing your ability to form an argument based off of the information you have learned from the reading.

**First Day of School:**

- Bring a copy of your completed summer DQ
- Be ready to take an analytical test on Brinkley’s Chapter 1: A Meeting of Cultures
  - Focus on understanding the major themes and ideas found within.

## **A Short History of the United States by Robert Remini**

### **Focus Questions**

Use these questions to help you focus on the important ideas throughout the Remini book. This will help you get into the proper historian mindset to write your summer DQ assignment.

#### **Chapter 1: Discovery and Settlement of the New World**

1. Why were the English more successful at promoting settlement of the New World than their Portuguese, Spanish, French, and Dutch counterparts?
2. What was the impact of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588?
3. Why was the creation of the Mayflower Compact significant?
4. Why was the Massachusetts Bay Company's decision to move operations to America significant?
5. Why did Roger Williams found Providence?
6. What was the Toleration Act?
7. What were the three types of English colonies in America and how were they different?
8. Why was it that local elected assemblies were able to exert considerable authority in the colonies?
9. What is "mercantilism" and why was the adoption of this policy significant?
10. What was salutary neglect?

#### **Chapter 2: Independence and Nation Building**

1. Why did the British decide to abandon their policy of salutary neglect?
2. List the acts that the British imposed on the colonists between 1763 and 1774 that led to protests by the colonists.
3. What was Thomas Paine's purpose in writing *Common Sense*?
4. Briefly describe the framework of government established by the Founders in the Articles of Confederation and list the problems with this framework?
5. What was the Northwest Ordinance and why was it significant?
6. Describe the three major compromises of the Constitutional Convention: the Virginia (Large State) Plan, the New Jersey (Small State) Plan, and the Connecticut Plan.
7. Explain the difference between "strict" and "loose" construction of the U.S. Constitution.

#### **Chapter 3: An Emerging Identity**

1. What were the Alien and Sedition Acts and what were their significance?
2. What were the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions and what were their significance?
3. Why should a student of history be somewhat surprised by two of America's founders creating such resolutions?
4. Why was the election of 1800 a "revolutionary moment" according to Remini?
5. Why was the constitutionality of the Louisiana Purchase challenged?
6. What was the impact of *Marbury v. Madison*?
7. In what ways did Jefferson expand presidential power during his era?
8. What "nationalistic" changes occurred in America during the Era of Good Feelings?
9. What was decided in *McCulloch v. Maryland*?
10. What did the Compromise of 1820 do?
11. What did the Monroe Doctrine state?
12. Why was the Tariff of 1828 called the "Tariff of Abominations"?

#### **Chapter 4: “The Jackson Era”**

1. What was the spoils system?
2. What was the purpose of the Indian Removal Act?
3. Why were the Ordinances of Nullification passed in 1832 and what was President Andrew Jackson’s response to them?
4. Why did Andrew Jackson remove government deposits from the bank of the United States in 1833, and what was his decision to do with them?
5. Create a list of some of the important scientific advances during this same period.
6. Why was a gag order imposed on slavery in 1836?
7. In what ways did Jackson expand presidential power during his era?

#### **Chapter 5- “The Dispute Over Slavery, Secession, and the Civil War”**

1. Why did the Wilmot Proviso cause controversy in Congress?
2. What were the components of the Compromise of 1850?
3. Why do you think the Lincoln-Douglas debates caused Stephen Douglas to lose support for a run for president from both the North and the South?
4. What was the purpose of the Homestead Act?
5. When did Lincoln issue his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction? Why might this timing be significant?
6. Explain the significance and limitations of the Emancipation Proclamation.
7. Why was the Wade-Davis bill pocket-vetoed by Lincoln?
8. In what ways did Lincoln expand presidential power during the civil war?
8. What did the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment do?

#### **Chapter 6: Reconstruction and the Gilded Age**

1. What was Andrew Johnson’s Reconstruction plan?
2. Why did the Joint Committee of 15 object to it? What did they propose instead?
3. Why was the Civil Rights Act of 1866 important?
4. What was the Military Reconstruction Act of 1867 and what did it do?
5. Why wasn’t President Andrew Johnson removed from office after his impeachment?
6. What was the purpose of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment?
7. Who were the “Redeemers”?
8. Who likely won the election of 1876 and why didn’t he become president?
9. What did this election have to say about presidential politics and North-South relations in 1876?
10. What was the “Crime of ‘73”?
11. What was decided in *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896?
12. What were the planks (components) of the Populist Party platform?