

ZINN QUESTIONS

You will take a quiz over the Zinn reading on Wednesday. There will be basic questions about the reading (more brief and not critical thinking questions) AND questions that will require you to take information from the article AND use your analysis to answer the question. These critical thinking questions will come from the following list. (my advice is to know them all!)

1. Explain at least FOUR of the reasons that procreation halted greatly and/or life expectancy of the Natives was shortened with Columbus' arrival. What factors were affecting these men, women and children? Do you believe Columbus and others like him can be held responsible for this? Explain why/why not. ALSO- explain what this means for the future of these Indians?
2. Explain the comparison the author, Zinn, makes between the mapmaker and a historian. What is the difference he points out? Do you agree? Why/why not?
3. From what perspective does Zinn (the author) say that history is often told? What does he say is the problem with this? What do you think? Do you agree with Zinn? Why/why not?
4. Zinn admits that he too "takes a side" when telling history- give an example or two of WHOSE side he tells and why you think he chooses this "side". Do YOU think it's possible to avoid taking a side when telling history? Why/why not?
5. What does the statement by Powhatan to John Smith say about the Natives attitude towards these new settlers and how does this differ from the general European perspective? Is there a "right" perspective in this situation? Why/why not?
6. What reasons (so more than one) do settlers in New England use to justify their attitude towards the Pequot's land? Explain why you think these are reasonable explanations or not.
7. Zinn proposes the question, were all of these "bloodshed and deceit...a necessity for the human race to progress from savagery to civilization?" What is at least one fault he sees in this line of thinking (that it was necessary). Do YOU think it was necessary for "progress"? Why/why not?
8. How does Zinn attempt to prove that the Indians were not inferior? Provide examples. Why does he end the article with this? What significance do you think it has?