

APUSH Summer Assignment

Welcome to Mr. Mirovsky's AP United States History class. First and foremost, I want you to enjoy your well-earned time off over the summer and encourage you not to stress out about this assignment. I am keeping this assignment brief, so as not to intrude much on your summer vacation. With that said I am requiring you to complete an assigned reading chapter and answer a few questions, so that I can gauge your proficiency with historical reading and thinking skills. The questions I am providing below should be answered and sent to my email address: mmirovsky@armadaschools.org no later than **August 20th, 2025** in order to give me time to look over all of your responses before the next school year begins. Your assignment will be to read Chapter 1 of the book *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn. The counseling office at Armada High School can provide you with a printed copy of the reading or I can provide you with a digital copy upon request.

Zinn Chapter 1 questions

1. How does Zinn's interpretation of the story of Christopher Columbus differ from how Columbus is widely taught in American classrooms?
2. What analogy does Zinn use to describe the profession of a historian and what is his main purpose for writing *A People's History of the United States*?
3. What were Columbus' motives for the way he treated the Arawak people?
4. How does Bartolome de las Casas describe the behavior of the Spaniards on Hispaniola?
5. Explain the two reasons John Winthrop provides to justify taking the land of the native inhabitants of that region.
6. Could conflict between white settlers and Indians have been prevented or was it inevitable?
7. How did the European conquest of the Americas impact people in Europe that were not parting of the ruling class?
8. Summarize Howard Zinn's characterization of the society of native societies before the arrival of Europeans.