

HISTORY 241 — “THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865”

Answer sheet for QUIZ #1: On the reading, “Summary of US History, 1789-1865”

1. Under the Constitution and most of the time in practice, one set of political institutions are responsible for setting the rules for elections under the law (i.e., determining who is eligible to vote) and, generally, overseeing and conduct the vote?

THE STATES. This is a central factor in all U.S. elections and party politics at every level, all the way down to present-day elections. States run all elections, including federal. States decide who is eligible, how the vote is counted and where, what the ballot looks like, how to get ballot access, voter registration requirements. States regulate parties. There were important changes at the federal level: After the Civil War, the 14th Amendment defined citizenship by birthright and naturalization. The 19th Amendment expanded the vote to women. The 26th lowered voting age to 18. Civil rights laws and court rulings in the 1950s and 1960s ended the system of Jim Crow segregation that blocked almost all African Americans from voting in the southern states.

2. During the American War of Independence (1775-1783), many of the colonists (about 1/3 of the population) supported the British crown. They were called Loyalists. During and especially after the war, an estimated 80,000 people — Loyalists, their families, their servants and slaves, men who fought for the British military, and sometimes just people associated with Loyalists — left or fled for other parts of the British Empire, or were expelled from the new American states by violence. Where, at first, was the most common destination for these exiles?

CANADA.

3. The French Revolution was long in coming, but it broke out into the open in the summer of 1789. Thomas Jefferson was the American ambassador in Paris until he left to return to the United States in September. Until then, he worked on a project with his old friend, the Marquis de Lafayette, who had been the commander of the French forces that helped the Americans win the War of Independence. What was the title of the document that they drafted?

(French) DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN, 1789. One of the defining documents of modern rights, equality, liberty and liberalism, property relations, and nation-states.

4. The American revolution is said to have inspired the French. The French revolution set off a massive uprising led by slaves somewhere in the French colonial empire in 1792. Where was that?

ST. DOMINGUE colony abolished slavery. After a French invasion and attempt to restore slavery in 1801, this half of the island of Hispaniola became the independent nation of **HAITI**. (Either answer correct.)

5&6. During the 1790s, the two first major political parties arose in the Early Republic. What were they called? (One of them had several names, any of which will do as an answer.)

FEDERALIST: The party of Washington, Adams, Hamilton. Considered Anglophile. Defunct after war of 1812.

REPUBLICAN (no relation to later Republican Party), also known as **DEMOCRAT-REPUBLICAN** and **JEFFERSONIAN**. Considered Francophile. Organization evolved into present-day Democratic Party.

7. According to the text, one group in early 19th-century U.S. society was “acknowledged as the most virtuous, essential servants to the nation.” Who were they?

WOMEN. “Republican Womanhood” was the idea that they bore the primary responsibility not just to give birth but to educate children into responsible Republican citizenship. In a switch of ancient ideas, women came to be seen as rational and responsible, men as impulsive and reckless and in need of a civilizing influence.

8. What was the big issue in the 1844 election? Couple of words or a short sentence will do:

Territorial expansion. Came to be called “**Manifest Destiny**” soon after. Whether to allow entry into the Union of the independent **Texas** colony and thus almost certainly start a war with Mexico. Whether to risk war with the British Empire over where the **northern border with Canada** should be. A couple of words indicating these ideas or territories is a satisfactory answer for our purposes. (Not for later tests.)

9. William Walker invaded this country and declared himself president:

NICARAGUA. Read that section again if necessary. The events described are still remembered in Central America more than in the US. Walker raised an independent private army, took control of Nicaragua for 3 years, legalized slavery, and was recognized by the US as the legitimate president before being chased out.

10. Who was president during the secession crisis, before Lincoln’s inauguration?

BUCHANAN.

NOTES ON THE COLONIZATION OF NORTH AMERICA

1500s – Spanish conquistadors conquer Aztecs and establish Mexico colony, which will range as far north as Texas, California, Florida & New Mexico before the Mexican-American War of 1846-48 and annexation by US.

1607 – Virginia Company, looking for profit through piracy or plunder of gold, founds Jamestown, fails at initial mission, is taken over by British Crown. Wars with Powhattan. 1619 – First slaves. 1676 – “Bacon’s Rebellion”

1608 – French explorers and merchants establish first outposts in Quebec. French activity and small-scale colonization will continue in **Canada** and along the Mississippi (Louisiana territory) until 1763 (loss to British).

1620 – Puritans (Pilgrims) found first colony in New England (Massachusetts Bay). Bring families. Will branch out through splits and changes until five colonies by the 1700s.

1624 – Dutch West India Company founds **New Netherland** with forts along the Hudson at New Amsterdam (Manhattan) and Orange (Albany). Taken by British in 1664, becomes New York. In the deal British also take over what they call **New Jersey** with its small Swedish and Dutch colonies. New York becomes a big trade port (by then standards) & home to huge plantations along the Hudson (the size of present-day counties).

1634 – Founding of Maryland colony by an English noble; unusually tolerant of Catholics (until later).

1681 – Quakers establish **Pennsylvania**, make a treaty peace with the regional Indians (good until 1754).

1683 – English colonists from Barbados establish first **Carolina** settlement at Charlestown. This will become three colonies by 1730s (North and South Carolina, Georgia). Story will be told briefly in class!

1700 – Population of all East Coast English colonies reaches about 250,000.

1733 – Georgia becomes #13 on the East Coast. By this time, Britain (now the United Kingdom) has acquired another 10 or so colonies in the Caribbean, which provide most of the profits for the crown and the shareholders. New England fisheries largely live off shipping cod to the Caribbean colonies to feed the large slave populations there without needing to use precious tropical land for anything other than sugar and other valuable commodities. Britain is emerging as the leader in the Transatlantic slave trade.

1754-1763 – Young British colonial officer named George Washington accidentally starts what becomes known as the Seven Years War, in which a British-led coalition defeats a French-led coalition in Europe and around the world, leading to the emergence of a global British Empire with vast holdings in India and 26 colonies in the Americas.

1763-1774 – Various troubles between Crown and American Colonists arise; independence becomes a thing.

1775-1783 – War of American Independence.