
Study Guide for “2.1 Interpreting the American Revolution”

Dr. Price’s History 201 Classes

Terms

Mercy Otis Warren
the Whig Interpretation
the Progressive Interpretation
Carl Lotus Becker
conflicts of interests

Consensus Interpretations
Gordon Wood
“New Left” Interpretations
Gary Wills

Questions

1. Discuss the Whig interpretation of the American Revolution.
2. The Progressive interpretation of the American Revolution is pretty much the same as Progressive interpretations of every time and place in history. Discuss...
3. Discuss the Consensus view of the American Revolution.
4. How does the “New Left echo the older Progressive interpretation of the Revolution? How might it differ?
5. How does time and place affect interpretations of history? Whig historians dominate the first half century from the Revolution; Progressives dominate the late 19th century; the age of the rise of big business and birth of the regulatory state; Consensus Historians appear in the period after World War II; the New Left becomes important in the period of the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War. In what ways do you think that the present might come to dominate interpretations of the past by historians?

Study Guide for “2.2 A Tale of Two Georges”

Dr. Price’s History 201 Classes

Terms

George III	Stamp Act Congress
George Grenville	Repeal of the Stamp Act
The Sugar Act (1763)	Declaratory Act
The Currency Act (1764)	Charles “Champagne Charley” Townshend
The Proclamation of 1763	Townshend Acts
the Stamp Act (1765)	Boston Massacre
Benjamin Franklin	Lord North
precedent	the Tea Act of 1773
internal taxes	British East India Company
external taxes	Intolerable Acts
no taxation without representation	Boston Port Bill
Patrick Henry	Massachusetts Government Act
Stamp Act Resolutions	Administration of government Act
Boston Stamp Tax Riot	Quartering Act
Jared Ingersoll	
Sons of Liberty	

Questions

6. The Sugar Act caused quite a stir in the New England colonies, but very little trouble elsewhere. Why? What prompted Grenville to produce the Sugar Act in the first place? Why did it anger influential New Englanders?
7. Explain the reasons for the Currency Act. Why is it significant that the Act treated all of the colonies the same?
8. Why did George III’s Proclamation of 1763 cause such a stir among influential leaders from all of the colonies?
9. What was the problem with the Stamp Act? Why did it cause so much trouble throughout the colonies in spite of a general acceptance of the act by colonial agents in London? What principles were involved?
10. Discuss Patrick Henry of Virginia? Why were his Stamp Act Resolutions so revolutionary?
11. Dr. Price states that the Sons of Liberty might fairly be called “America’s first domestic terrorist organization”? Explain.
12. Why did Parliament repeal the Stamp Act? How did colonists respond to the repeal? What does the colonial response tell us about colonists’ understanding about the king’s place in their politics, and their erroneous understanding of the repeal? How does the Declaratory Act illustrate colonists’ errors in perception?
13. Charles Townshend believed that colonists differentiated between “internal” and “external” taxes. Bearing that idea in mind, explain the Townshend Acts. Was he right?
14. Describe what actually happened in Boston on March 5, 1770. How did what actually happened differ from the narrative of radicals like Paul Revere?
15. Discuss the Boston Tea Party and its consequences.

Study Guide for “2.3 Revolution”

Dr. Price’s History 201 Classes

Terms

Gen. Thomas Gage

Dr. Benjamin Church

Margaret Kemble Gage

Lexington

Concord

“the Shot heard around the world”

Siege of Boston

Battle of Bunker Hill

Gen. Henry Clinton

Gen. John Burgoyne

Gen. William Howe

Charleston Neck

Continental Congress

Thomas Paine

Common Sense

“Royal Brute of Britain”

Declaration of Independence

Thomas Jefferson

Yorktown

Questions

16. Gage’s plan to go to Concord to confiscate weapons from the Massachusetts rebels was possibly the worst kept military secret in the history of warfare! Explain.
17. What is the significance of the Battle of Bunker Hill?
18. Not all of the members of the Second Continental Congress were in favor of independence from Great Britain. What were some members reluctant? What were the “positives” in the colonial-British relationship?
19. How did *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine change colonists’ perception of their relationship with Great Britain? Why do you think that the pamphlet had such a revolutionary affect?
20. Who was on the committee that drafted the *Declaration of Independence*? Why, given the heavy hitters on the committee did that duty fall to its youngest member, Thomas Jefferson?
21. What *WAS* the *Declaration of Independence* and what *WASN’T* it?
22. What were the pros and cons of the British execution of the Revolutionary War? Why, given the numerical advantage of both army and navy, and a long tradition of military success, did the British lose? What about the rebels? Apply the same questions to the rebel side. Why did the rebels eventually win?

Study Guide for “2.4 From Confederation To Constitution”

Dr. Price’s History 201 Classes

Terms

The *Articles of Confederation*

Shays’ Rebellion

The Nationalists

Mt. Vernon Conference (1785)

Annapolis Conference (1786)

Constitutional Convention (1787)

Alexander Hamilton

James Madison

George Mason

Virginia Plan

William Paterson

New Jersey Plan

Benjamin Franklin

Roger Sherman

Connecticut Compromise

The Great Compromise

Three-Fifths Compromise

Ratification Conventions

Federalists

Antifederalists

problem of representation

terms of office

Patrick Henry’s lament

Bill of Rights

George Washington

The First Congress of the United States

Questions

1. What were the weaknesses of the government created by the *Articles of Confederation*? what powers did the *Articles* grant to Congress? What powers did Congress *actually have*? What were the consequences of the weaknesses of the government?
2. Discuss Shays’ Rebellion. While the fracas in Western Massachusetts wasn’t really all that dangerous, it had a volatile effect in terms of illustrating many of the defects inherent in the *Articles*. Why?
3. Who were the Nationalists? Discuss.
4. Who attended the Constitutional Convention? Who didn’t? Why is that important?
5. Discuss the Virginia and New Jersey Plans. Both favored some states at the expense of others. How did the Great Compromise ultimately break the bottleneck? Explain.
6. The Constitution was forged out of necessary compromises that brought out distinct differences between large and small states, regions and especially the growing rift between a free North and a slave South. Discuss several of those compromises, especially the crisis between more populous states and less populous states, and the compromises over slavery.
7. Coach Boudreaux in your 7th grade American History class, probably didn’t mention it, but the fight over ratification of the new Constitution was hard fought, especially in Virginia, Massachusetts and New York. Discuss the Antifederalists and their various criticisms of the new form of government.
8. The First Congress of the United States was unique and very important—a sort of second Constitutional Convention. What kinds of things did the First Congress have to iron out? Discuss the Bill of Rights, the debate over titles and the problem of tariffs.

Study Guide for “2.5 The Federalist Regime”

Dr. Price’s History 201 Classes

Terms

Alexander Hamilton	party and faction
Thomas Jefferson	<i>Gazette of the United States</i>
Henry Knox	<i>National Gazette</i>
John Jay	Federalists
assumption	James Madison
The Bank of the United States	Republicans
tariffs	Whiskey Rebellion
excise taxes	Edmund Genet
public lands	Jay’s Treaty
“implied powers”	The “XYZ affair”
<i>Report on Manufacturing</i>	

Questions

1. Who were President Washington’s choices for his cabinet? (By the way, his Secretary of War was Henry, not John, Knox)? Why did he choose them?
2. What were Hamilton’s policy plans? What particular problems did Hamilton face in terms of the economy, and how were his policies tuned to deal with those problems?
3. Discuss Hamilton’s versus Jefferson and Madison’s views of the future of the United States. How were they different? Some historians argue that their different visions for America still influence us today. Discuss.
4. Discuss Hamilton’s versus Jefferson and Madison’s views of the Constitution and the relationship that the Constitution creates between the federal system, the states and the American people. What is “strict construction”? “Loose construction”? Who argued for which? Why did the proposal for a Bank of the United States set off a major argument about the purpose and limits of the Constitution and the powers of the federal system?
5. By the end of Washington’s first term the line was fully drawn between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. There were many political parties in the states, but as yet none at the national level prior to this split. Discuss the origins of the “first party system.”
6. How did each party characterize itself? How did each party characterize the other party?
7. Discuss Federalist foreign policy. What was the impact of European wars on American policy and American relations, especially with France and Great Britain. What were the major events in U.S. foreign policy during the Washington and Adams Administrations, and what effect did they have on domestic party politics?

Study Guide for “2.6 Decline of the Federalists”

Dr. Price’s History 201 Classes

Terms

John Adams

Thomas Jefferson

Alien and Sedition Acts

Naturalization Act

Alien Act

Sedition Act

Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

James Madison

Election of 1800

Aaron Burr

12th Amendment

Judiciary Act of 1801

“Midnight Judges”

Questions

1. Discuss the Alien and Sedition Acts, the reason for their creation, and the reaction to them. Who was prosecuted under the acts and what does that tell us about their purpose?
2. The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions were written by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. They both outlined a theory of the U.S. Constitution that we call the “compact theory.” Why were the two resolutions produced? Describe the compact theory of government. Why do you suppose the other states refused to support the resolutions, and what might have been the outcome had some of the states supported them?
3. The election of 1800 exposed a flaw in the system that the Constitution created for the election of the president. What was it? What problem cropped up? How did the 12th Amendment fix it?

Study Guide for “2.7 & 2.8 Jefferson and The Republicans”

Dr. Price’s History 201 Classes

Terms

“Revolution of 1800”	James Wilkinson
“spoils system”	John Marshall
Judge John Pickering	impressment
“mosquito fleet”	U.S.S. Chesapeake
Barbary War	H.M.S. Leopard
Algiers	Berlin Decree (1806)
Tunis	Milan Decree (1807)
Tripoli	“peaceful coercion”
Tripolitan pirates	“non-intercourse”
Commodore Stephen Decatur	James Madison
John Randolph of Roanoke	David Erskine
Napoleon	Macon’s Bill n. 2 (1810)
Santo Domingo	War of 1812
Louisiana Purchase	war hawks
New Orleans	“White House”
James Monroe	Hartford Convention
Robert Livingston	Battle of New Orleans
Burr Hamilton duel	Treaty of Ghent
Burr’s conspiracy	“Era of Good Feelings”
Andrew Jackson	

Questions

4. Historians’ assessments of Jefferson are mixed. All too often historians take an ahistorical viewpoint of Jefferson. He has been identified as a 20th century liberal, a 20th century conservative, and of late, historians seem more inclined to criticize the fact that he was a slaveholder. Is it fair to use late 20th century values to criticize 18th century people? In what ways was Jefferson a man of *his* times and in what ways might we say that he was a man of *all times*?
5. Much has also been made of the election of 1800, some historians, who really love to use the word, have labeled it “the Revolution of 1800.” Was there a revolution in 1800? Look at the election and its political aftermath and explain.
6. Why did Napoleon decide to sell the Louisiana Territory? Why did Jefferson decide to buy it? What snags did Jefferson encounter in his attempt to (a) purchase the territory, and (b) rationalize the constitutionality of the purchase? How were matters complicated by whatever Aaron Burr was doing out West?
7. Discuss U.S. foreign policy during the Jefferson and Madison Administrations, from 1800 to the War of 1812.
8. Consider the War of 1812. What were the causes and consequences of the war? What was the Hartford Convention and what effect, if any, did it have on the war, and on the politics of the post-war period? How did the Battle of New Orleans, fought *after* the conclusion of the war, have on American post-war morale?