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Dr. Rhodes

History 103

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Final Exam

Throughout the history of both the United States as well as the world, there have been many different ways that the people of today have been able to use the past to be able to make the best decisions relating to the state of the present. The present year of 2020 has had many challenges for all of the worlds to try to face, such as the year starting with a fear of the COVID 19 virus. As the year has gone on, many people have been looking backward into history to be able to find similarities and differences to the events during today's day and age that we are forced to face. Today's day and age have been a hectic time for everyone. With politics dividing the American people left and right, it makes it difficult for all of us to come together to find a solution for the issues that we must solve. Taking a step into the past to see how these situations that we face today were handled back then is very important for us as individuals to be able to make the world a better place for everyone.

During the pre-Columbian era of the United States, which took place in the early fifteenth century, the people alive at the time in the region were known to the region as Native Americans. These people are also sometimes referred to as Indians due to when Christopher Columbus had reached the islands of the Caribbean believing that they were the West Indies. Native Americans are people who had been living across the American continent had been isolated from the rest of

the world from across the Atlantic for centuries. These people had not been exposed to the deadly diseases of the European world until Christopher Columbus had reached the continent and brought them to the Native population. “Cut off from the Old World, its domesticated animals, and its immunological history, Native Americans lived free from the terrible diseases that ravaged populations in Asia, Europe, and Africa.”(The American YAWP) The Native Americans at the time had lacked any immunities from the diseases such as smallpox, typhus, influenza, measles, etc, which had brought great death and destruction to the Native population at the time. As much as 90% of the population at the time was attributed to epidemics of the time. “All told some scholars estimate that as much as 90 percent of the population of the Americas perished within the first century and a half of European contact.”(The American YAWP) This can correlate to today’s pandemic of the novel coronavirus because right now the world’s population has never been exposed to a virus like this, which makes it deadly to anyone. After all, no one has been exposed to COVID-19 before.

During the time of the American Revolution, the United States was becoming a brand new country to the rest of the world. Fighting a war against the British on the American homefront helped the U.S pull off a victory. After the revolutionary war, a form of government had to be put in place as well as what could be seen as ‘basic rules and rights for the country’ this was named the “Articles of Confederation”. The articles were the first constitution drafted for the new United States. When this constitution was put into effect it began to gain supporters known as the anti-federalists while those who supported the ratification of the constitution and claimed that the articles were a weak form of government were known as federalists. The constitution ended up being ratified by the United States government on March 1, 1781. “Congress was given

no power to levy or collect taxes, regulate foreign or interstate commerce, or establish a federal judiciary.”(The American YAWP) The ratification of the Articles of Confederation can relate to today’s day and age with the differences of political parties such as Democratic and Republican parties. These political parties can relate to the anti-federalists as well as the federalists with today by the vast differences the parties are seen to have. Parties during today are wanting change such as police reform and better options for healthcare, these are different but not far off from what the political parties of the past had wanted to be able to reform, with the ratification of the Articles of Confederation. At the end the changes ended up being needed changes and the Declaration of Independence is a document that the people of the U.S treat with respect.

The effects of the cotton revolution within the United States can be labeled as productive as well as horrific. The cotton revolution had contributed to the growing number of slaves in the south. Cotton had needed to be picked by hand in order to receive the full crop, it had become a valuable cash crop for the Southern United States. This created a boom in the economy which then provided an uptick in the amount of slaves in the South. “Over the course of the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, slavery became so endemic to the Cotton Belt that travelers, writers, and statisticians began referring to the area as the Black Belt, not only to describe the color of the rich land but also to describe the skin color of those forced to work its fields, line its docks, and move its products.”(The American YAWP) Eli Whitney, the creator of the cotton gin which was meant to decrease the need of slavery, but instead it had increased the demand for slavery by farm owners. The increase of slavery by the cotton gin and slavery in general still has its effects rooted in society, The current Black Lives Matter movements going on across the country are fighting to help give the African American citizens of this country together and be

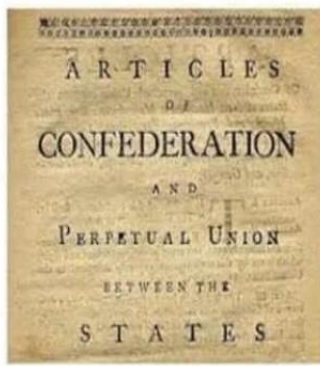
seen as equals because unfortunately today some people still negatively look at the African American community.

In conclusion the United States of today is divided on many different issues, weather it be from politics to the COVID 19 pandemic everyone has met someone in their life that has disagreeents to the way you are thinking. Us as Americans can use information given to us over all kinds of platforms in order to develop our own views on contemporary life and issues in this country. People use items such as memes in order to fuel their agenda of what they may think or believe. As we progress into the future, this next generation will see many more things we never thought we would see as we continue on through life, but because of history we will be able to create our own ideas and opinions on those events that might take place.



(Pre-Coloubian- Unit 1&2)

WIFI: *drops by one bar*
Youtube video quality:



(Declaration of Independence -

Unit 3&4)



(Cotton Revolution - Unit

5&6)