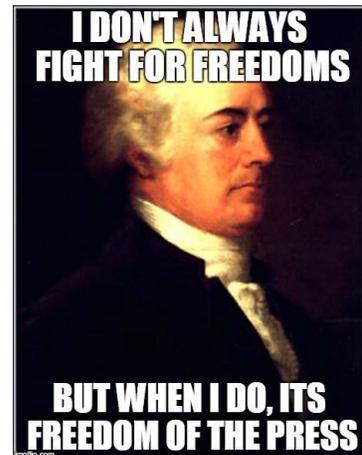


David Frysz

American history to 1876 final exam essay

Americans use media and objects to better explain their own ideas and ultimately get better understanding by using these objects. Some of the objects may even be from American history all the way back in the 16th or 17th centuries. These uses of old history really can make some funny memes for the people who love history, or for the historians who want to have a laugh at a time where they're usually serious.

In talking about pre Columbia's America, John Peter Zenger was one of the main journalists who wrote about fighting for freedom of the press. This meme has to do with that notion of freedom of the press and this relates a little bit to modern day politics. This meme was tweeted by Jim Reuter in poking fun about Zenger. Many of the memes relating to Zenger have to do with the freedom of speech. At the time, he was a journalist, and was accused of lying to the press, or libel. At this time, it was against the law to be doing this, thus opinions not being supported in articles, just straight facts. This nowadays goes against the Constitution of the freedom of speech amendment. This also relates to politics nowadays with people saying whatever they want, even though it might be false or negative towards others. Zenger's case was one of the first freedom of speech victories for journalists. This meme does relate to current events because freedom of speech is important, and sometimes limited if it is against the government. With politics today though, people are allowed to say whatever they want and about anyone. In the 2020 election, and even past elections, many candidates would just say whatever about anyone and get away with it, even though it could be false and negative.



For the American Revolution, there is many memes, but this one stood out.

This meme has to do with the Boston tea party. It is funny because most of these memes about the tea party are very similar, just a different delivery of the joke at hand. This one in particular talks about how Americans made tea if they didn't have any kettles. At this time in history, The British were taxing their colonists for tea and a bunch of other amenities.

Most people current day do know about this incident because it was learned in middle school, so a lot of people should get this joke. The British at this time didn't want any of their colonists to be represented, as in why taxation without representation became one of the main points in why this tea party happened. The people involved with this incident were the Sons of Liberty, led by Samuel Adams. They dumped so much tea with value that the British became more angry. Again, one of the main ideas of this is that the British really shouldn't have implemented so many taxes to a point where it's unrealistic, and then not have any colonists have the chance to protest these taxes without getting in serious trouble. This meme in itself uses history to attain to current events because without representation, there will be civil unrest, or groups will come forward protesting reasons why racism occurs, like for example, Black Lives Matter. This is a really good comparison to that, because their ideas are both so similar in how people started to destroy things like the colonists dumped tea into the harbor, because they aren't equally represented, or they don't feel like they're equally represented. This meme is also funny, because the person in the picture looks like a British loyalist, and the fact

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tangedolium:

WAIT IS IT ACTUALLY  
GENUINELY A THING THAT  
AMERICANS DON'T HAVE  
KETTLES?

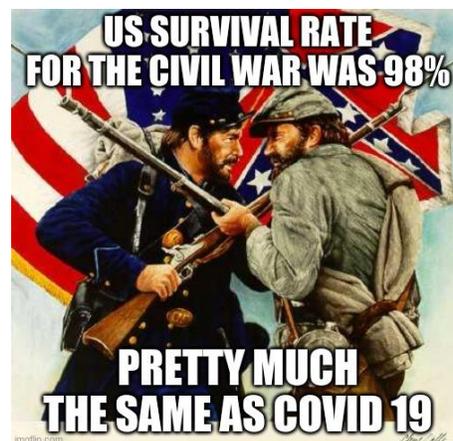
BUT THEN HOW DO THEY MAKE  
TEA?!

by throwing it into the harbor



they didn't have cars back then makes this even more funnier. It looks like he is rushing to get to the harbor to try to stop the colonists from dumping tea.

The next meme is from the Civil War relating to Covid-19. The meme describes the mortality rate relating it to the effects from COVID. This is not supposed to be funny, but it does compare the effects of a pandemic to the civil war. The civil war was a time where they were fighting for and against slavery, two sides of one nation fighting. This part doesn't really relate to COVID, but the



effects of the death toll. At this time, they were just introducing new weapons of mass destruction like the Gatling gun to kill more people. The US at this time was fighting against itself in order to obtain full dominance in terms of whether slavery would be prohibited or preferred. This meme ties in 2020 to the civil war because the mortality rate. The fact that the mortality rate is so similar between these two events is 98% relating it to saying that only a small number of people will die due to COVID, but the numbers could still go up. This object does use history correctly to explain the mortality rate due to COVID, and it really helps people understand that COVID is serious, but only so far that around 2% of the population has died. This shouldn't make people want to go and socialize, but it can make people feel a little bit better if they get COVID or know someone who has it. Just the fact comparing it to the civil war is that many people already know about the civil war, so they should understand what it is and not be out of the loop on this one.

Overall, history is important and one of the subjects that tie a lot of people together in terms of sharing ideas and communication. Using objects like memes, social media posts, and

articles really does help get the current point across while still relating to past history events. The best way to do this would be using history that everyone should and does know, and then make it funny so more people can understand this.