

What If?: Rewriting History

APUSH Final Exam

Spring 2018

Due date: May 21 (1st period); May 22 (2nd period)

How might U.S. history have proceeded if certain events had turned out differently or not happened at all? For example, English settlers had not discovered tobacco....George Washington had not crossed the Delaware River... the Cotton Gin had not been invented...The South won the Civil War... the Stock Market Crash never happened...Martin Luther King, Jr. had not been assassinated....President Nixon was not investigated for Watergate...Bernie Sanders had won the Democratic Party nomination in 2016, etc. Similarly, if you could go back in time and help change one event, which one would you choose?

With those questions in mind, your assignment is to take ONE critical event from U.S. history (of your choice from the years 1607-2000) and rewrite its history based on a different outcome. Your unique, independently-created product (paper, exhibit, presentation, or documentary) should be highly-detailed and address not only how different history would have turned out but also why and be supported by historical evidence. More specifically, your final product should explain how at least 3 other events would also have changed/turned out differently *or not* (and why). You may and are encouraged to try to take your alternative history as far as the present.

This is not designed to be merely an opinion piece (or hypothesis writing). Though there may be times you need to speculate, your essay must be backed up with historical evidence, first and foremost. You may consult your notes and your textbook, *By the People*, but these will not count as one of your required sources.

This assignment is intended to showcase your skills of historical investigation and argument and will count as your final exam grade (20%). Your grade will be determined by how well you research and how convincingly you present your argument.

***Essay requirements/guidelines:**

5-8 pages maximum (double-spaced)

Must include a thesis statement in introduction

Must include footnotes/proper citation for all outside sources you use (Chicago style)

Must include a bibliography (with at least 4 primary and 4 secondary sources—Chicago style)

***Exhibit/Presentation requirements/guidelines:**

No specific parameters so long as project addresses all parts of the question/assignment

Thesis statement must be easily seen somewhere on the exhibit or presentation

Must include a bibliography (with at least 4 primary and 4 secondary sources—Chicago style)

***Documentary requirements/guidelines:**

10 minutes maximum

Thesis statement must be shown or spoken within the first 2 minutes

Must include a bibliography (with at least 4 primary and 4 secondary sources—Chicago style)