

# AP United States History

## Discussion Guide: 1491-1754

**Directions:** These questions should be answered in class.

### The Clash of Cultures

1. How did the cultivation of maize transform Native American society? How did the lack of maize influence other Native societies in the New World?
2. What major differences existed between the Old World and New World in regards to gender roles and the view of the environment?
3. How did slavery quickly evolve with the introduction of the Portuguese to Africa? What practices did the Portuguese with this new slavery? How did new slavery differ from old slavery?
4. How was the Columbian Exchange transform by the Old and New Worlds, with more negative consequences befalling the latter? Was this exploitation by the Old World or just a matter of environmental circumstance?
5. What factors led to the start of the encomienda and mission systems? Your textbook has labeled it slavery by another name; do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Explain. How did Native Americans, particularly the Pueblos, resist the attempts at control by the Spanish?
6. Kennedy and Cohen assert that Cortes actions in Mexico represents one of the most “fateful encounters” in world history; what evidence is present to support this opinion? Focus your response on religious and demographic changes.

### The Growth of Society

1. How did the doctrine of Calvinism promote constant uncertainty and doubt, despite its credence of predestination?
2. Discuss the political specter of the Massachusetts Bay colony. In what ways did it represent relative democracy? In what ways was this democracy limited?
3. Why were Williams and Hutchinson dangerous to the authority in the Massachusetts Bay colony? What did the manner in which they were “handled” reveal some insight to the colony itself?
4. Why were the Pequot War and King Phillip’s War crucial in the development of the New England colony?
5. Why is the Barbados Slave Code of 1661 one of the monumental pieces of legislation in the development of the New World?
6. How and why did the Glorious Revolution lead to the positive effect of salutary neglect *and* lead to the possibility of future problems, especially in Massachusetts?

### A Mature Society

1. Explain how the cycle of tobacco production impacted indentured servants, Native Americans, and Africans.
2. Has the impact of Bacon’s Rebellion on the colonial Chesapeake been overvalued? Explain your response with specific evidence to support your opinion.
3. What factors led to the growth of African slavery in North America? How did the legal definition of slavery change to fit the needs of English colonists on the continent? Describe the early contributions of African slaves to the culture of the colonial Chesapeake and South.
4. How did geographic factors lead to a sharp contrast in composition, gender roles, and quality of life between the New England and Chesapeake colonies?
5. Kennedy and Cohen argue that the middle colonies were the ideal go-between the New England and Southern colonies; do you agree with this interpretation? Explain.
6. Why did the colonists feel compelled to disavow the Navigation Acts? Focus on the economic incentive to do so, shown with the reaction to the Molasses Act.
7. The impact of the Great Awakening has been overstated by historians; support or refute this interpretation.
8. Was The Enlightenment a direct challenge to the Great Awakening? Explain.