



## FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION



### A Quick Review

Our course began with the arrival of European explorers in what became known as the Americas. They were driven by the ideals of the Renaissance, the race for faster trade routes, new technology, economic gain, a desire to spread Christianity

and competition for global influence. Although this led to the displacement of Native Americans, Spain, France, the Netherlands and England claimed land and established settlements in North America.

English settlements grew into well-populated, permanent colonies that varied because of geography and the ideas of their founders. The colonists considered themselves British citizens and believed that they were entitled to the same rights as their countrymen on the opposite side of the Atlantic. The British government, however, thought that the colonies existed for the benefit of the home country's economy.

The long-standing rivalry between England and France spread to North America where the colonists and the British army fought the French along with their Indian allies. Although the French and Indian War resulted in a British victory, it left England with a large debt. To the British government, it seemed reasonable to tax the colonists to pay for the war. The colonists, who had no representation in Parliament, considered this proposal not only unreasonable but unfair. They objected and boycotted British goods. When the British government responded with harsher measures, the protest intensified, and the American colonists formally announced their separation from Britain with the Declaration of Independence.

Clashes between armed colonial minutemen and British troops developed into the American Revolutionary War. In spite of great odds, the American army was victorious, but maintaining a central government was in some ways an even greater challenge. When the guidelines provided by the Articles of Confederation proved inadequate, the delegates of the Constitutional Convention developed a new plan for governing the republic.

The United States Constitution, based on the principles of federalism, separation of powers, checks/balances and popular sovereignty, continues to be the foundation of American government. Through its implied powers, it has adapted to changes created by the passage of time, advancements in technology and global events. For example, even though it is not specifically mentioned in the Constitution, the federal government established the First Bank of the United States and the Federal Reserve to keep the U.S. economy stable.



Go to Questions 1 through 50 to complete the First Semester Final Examination.

