

Preliminary Examination

U.S. to 1830

Spring 2001

DIRECTIONS. Answer one question in each section, citing bibliographical references whenever possible.

SECTION ONE:

A. Oscar and Mary Handlin argued in 1950 that "The status of Negroes [in Virginia] was that of servants; and so they were identified and treated down to the 1660's." How have recent historians changed or modified this view and how have they reinterpreted the relationship between slave and free labor in the Chesapeake?

B. Discuss and account for the overthrow of the Dominion of New England in 1689. In terms of causes, goals, and consequences, to what extent was it a dress rehearsal for the American Revolution of the 1770's and 1780's?

SECTION TWO:

A. Suppose that you are teaching a graduate-level course on selected problems in Early American history, and that you have decided to spend one of the weekly meetings on the colonial political system around the year 1750. What readings would you assign? What issues would you want the class to address and, perhaps, resolve?

B. Jack P. Greene argues that "the central assumptions that have informed the analysis of colonial British American history over the past two generations...have emphasized the preeminence or normative character of the experience of the orthodox puritan colonies of New England in the process of modern British colonial social development and the formation of American culture." Discuss, considering how those viewpoints have been rethought.

SECTION THREE:

A. When Thomas Jefferson became president he tried to conciliate the nation with the statement "We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists." To what extent was this statement true? Did Jefferson's election make a difference and to what extent? How did it affect the development of the American political system?

B. During the ratification contest of the 1780's, the Federalists argued that the Constitution would create a central government strong enough to deal with problems that the Confederation government had been unable to resolve, and yet at the same time safe enough to preserve traditional liberties. To what extent was their promise kept during the period 1789-1815?

SECTION ONE:

A. Oscar and Mary Satchel in 1850 said: "The slave in the South (in Virginia) was that of serfdom; and as they were more than any other view and how have they reorganized the relationship between slave and free labor in the Chesapeake?"

B. Discuss and account for the overthrow of the British in England in 1689. In terms of the goals, and character of the revolution was it a dress rehearsal for the American Revolution of the 1780's?

SECTION TWO:

A. Suppose that you are teaching a graduate-level course in selected problems in Early American history. One of the topics would be the weekly meeting of the Federal Convention in 1787. How would you teach this year's meeting? What would be the main points to discuss with your students?

B. How do you think the American Revolution was a revolution in the analysis of colonial society? How do you think the revolution was a revolution in the analysis of colonial society? How do you think the revolution was a revolution in the analysis of colonial society?

SECTION THREE: