

APUSH Summer Reading Assignment 2023

Please purchase and read [Union](#) by Colin Woodard (Penguin, 2020) ISBN 978-0-525-56017-3

Over the course of seventy (very short!) chapters (seriously, they are very short; sometimes not even a page.) Woodard sketches out brief (very brief!) biographies of five men who lived mostly in the 1800s.

In the course of telling the story of their lives, Woodard also explains how each of these men had a vision of what “America” was, how to understand “American history,” and what it meant to be an “American.”

Your assignment is to keep track of each man’s background, vision, and understanding of American history; his ideas, basically. Type up your notes as you go. *You can use the attached chart or make your own system, as you prefer.*

Keep these notes fairly concise. There’s no need to copy out long descriptions or elaborate details. You’re aiming for fairly broad strokes here. At the same time, if your strokes are so broad you can’t tell the men’s ideas apart, that isn’t ideal either. See if you can figure out why Woodard has chosen each of these figures to build his book around.

There will be a test on the summer reading on the first day of class in September. The test will be open note, so print them out and bring them in. I will look at the notes to make sure you haven’t blindly copied from a classmate’s work, but it’s completely okay with me if you discuss the book and the ideas with each other beforehand.

Here’s the first part of the test: “Write a one-sentence summary of each man’s vision of America.”

Enjoy!

Union by Colin Woodard (2020)

Name	Where was he from? In what time period was he most active?	Significant early experiences or turning points in his life	Title of main book or books	Brief overview of his main ideas about America	How did he respond to the ideas of other people on this list? Give examples if you find any.
George Bancroft					
William Simms					
Frederick Douglass					
Woodrow Wilson					
Frederick Jackson Turner					