

#flo #ret #disorganized #hw

title: prompt

American Revolution Historiography Essay

In a paper approximately 4 pages in length, write a synthesis essay using at least two of the American :

Synthesis writing is not that much different from what you did in 10th grade where you incorporated mul-

Your synthesis might take one of two general tracks (though I am open to discussing additional ideas as

1. Historiography: How might the sources help us to think about how histories of the revolution are to

2. Historical synthesis: Using the evidence and insights from the authors, what kinds of conclusions m

To assemble the material for your essay, you should feel free to utilize your notes from the presentati

what was the cause of the american revolution?

thinking:

historians that we read think about causality wrong

proximal and distal causality?

infinite chain of causality

cause -> cause -> effect

multiple causes can lead to multiple effects which in turn have effects

there is no single cause! it fits into this graph-network of causes and effects

essay: fit the causes of the american revolution into this graph framework of cause -> effect

for example, being able to unite over shared rejection of goods might be a proximal cause, but it is not *the* cause of the revolution.

big idea: **NEW MODEL OF CAUSALITY** this is, historiography.

- summaries of the readings:

- Holton: forced founders

- * economic situations!

- each chapter about how lack of independence has negative economic impacts

- * elites had to do stuff because of their debt?

- Wood: The Radicalism of the American Revolution

- * united by values

- * popular belief shaped by lived experience

- this is what drove the revolution

- Bailyn: The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution

- * british political radicals?

- * enslaving america via taxes?

- Breen: The Marketplace of Revolution

- social resources allowed people to unite across colonies
 - shared rejection of goods!
- Linebaugh and Rediker: Many Headed Hydra
 - Not about great men, it's really about
 - sailors, slaves, mobs
 - marxist! rise of the proletariat!

[forced founders + ->

bailyn -> [wood, holton] ->

linebaugh: breen: [wood, holton] : bailyn

- many different people united.
 - how did they unite?
- people could unite their ideals through shared rejection of goods
 - why did they have the ideals?
- shared lived experience – in debt
 - why did they have that lived experience – why were they in debt?
- taxes!
 - why did they have taxes?

the complex nature of causality

outline: - thesis - causality is complex and historians pick a small piece that matches a ideological agenda