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HIST FINAL EXAM

Essay A: 2

The growth of a shared British identity in the years after the Act of Union 1701 was clearly an important precursor to the Americans succeeding in the shared project of rebellion in 1776. The Act of Union not only merge together old political structures but created a new identity for everyone thought the empire called “Britishness” or being “British” that grew through previous identities. The cultural growth of a shared British identity is very important because it bound multiple different sets of people together in the same bracket, unifying them in a way never previously done before. Each colony had a distinct belief, location, religious backgrounds and more that made them different from each other. For instance, simply looking at the Middle Colonies, it was religiously and ethnically diverse with a mixture of urban commercial ports and farmland, with a large variety of crops, all markedly different from each other.

The creation of a shared British identity was such an important precursor to Americans succeeding that it has been said that its ironic. It offered a commonality that allowed colonies from different backgrounds to imagine themselves as part of a larger collective. The shared project of revolution was dependent on their shared identity, as it connected them all. Without the creation of a British identity, colonists who initially thought of themselves so different from each other would have never come to coordinate resistance in the first place. To make better sense of the irony, the imperial creation of a unified British identity was ultimately the force that would allow Colonists to challenge their imperial control leading to 1776.

After the Act of Union, the Treaty of Utrecht ended the war, creating a period of peace until more wats that would eventually become more common, dragging the colonies in and becoming more and more expensive. This was the start of Colonies being used to imperial gain, British colonization began changing as colonies, were previously created for personal goals. With the creation of Georgia, they began being created for commercial goals, such as defending the English claim in the south. This was just the start of how the colonies would be treated different and how some of their frustrations would begin to grow with Britain. More events

happening such as the Great Awakening, Nationality Act of 1740, Albany plan and the Stamp Act continued to frustrate colonists, who now had their own connected identity in the Americas. They wanted to be represented in parliament and became disappointed with how they were being treated.

After being forced to pay for unwanted taxes, and ignored pleas for help, and having to house British soldiers, Colonists had enough. The Declaration of Independence was created with a list of grievances and reasons why the colonists are removing themselves from Britain. Their demands were not being met and after events such as the Boston Massacre and Bacon's Rebellion, they had a shared project of rebellion that ended up with the Declaration of Independence. It wasn't only a document but a collective statement of a shared identity that combined colonial frustrations with their newfound shared American identity transforming into a revolution. While the creation of a British identity wasn't the sole reason that colonists were able to push for independence, it was a great contributor that held many important ideals for the reasoning behind the rebellion in 1776. The shared British identity was an unexpected help to American independence and its interpretation created fundamental principles behind the present American identity.

Essay B: 2

There are multiple events across 1776 through 1876 that could be considered as American "revolutions." To start, the Treaty of Paris in 1783, which granted the United States independence from Britain was revolutionary as it acknowledged the independence of the American states, along with officially ending the American Revolutionary War. It also created the western boundary of the US and gave the United States fishing rights. This event was pretty drastic as it was the first time that America was seen as its own entity, establishing the boundaries of the new United States and of course, ending the war. This was an unprecedented event, that ended up with Americans establishing their independence along with making decisions that would shape their future.

While it seems like a basic choice, I would also argue that the Articles of Confederation is another significant "revolution" as they are an example of how we will govern our new nation and

what the United States government would look like. George Washington as President of the United States was a major American revolution in 1789-1797. He was responsible for creating what a President's role is and how it looks today. As he was the first president, he created a stable base for all future presidents to stand on. Not only did he decide important parts to his presidency, he also was responsible for the 4 year presidency time limit.

The American Civil War is another important conflict in the United States that was between the Union and Confederacy that led to a war over whether or not slavery would continue to be permitted. It started in 1861 and ended a few years later in 1865 when Abraham Lincoln was president. This event is a dramatic inflection point in the United States as by the end of the war the Confederacy collapsed and slavery had ended. While the end of the Civil War meant that the slaves were free it didn't mean that there was a solution to solving how to help freed slaves along with the racism. But, it was important nevertheless because it was the beginning to the eventual road of equality in the United States, along with making industrial advancements that would benefit America's technology.

The period from 1776-1876 held many events that shaped the United States into the strong nation it is today. These important events helped take a small group of colonies that made themselves into the United States. Each of these "revolutions" different in the time period, and events contributed to the development of America. What began as a few Colonists calling for no taxation without representation turned into a new form of government that still exists today.

Essay C: 1

From the earliest moments of colonial contact, American societies have struggled to define difference and to determine who should and should not be included in American society since the creation of itself. It was a continuous process of defining differences for our current American society to become as inclusive as it is today, and even then it is still growing and learning, constantly coming under reevaluation. A good example to start looking at is the Seven Patridas, which were laws that treated slaves as property. It also showed that slaves had certain rights giving them protections against injustices done to them. This medieval definition of slavery is a bit different from the modern version but holds the similarity that slaves were treated

wrongly and exploited. While both versions have a similar treatment the medieval one gives an opportunity for the slave to earn their freedom unlike the modern version. The Siete Partidas serves as an early example of how a law could define the relationships between people with power. Later on, the Spanish and Portuguese first contact with Native peoples is an example of the difference they saw between themselves and the natives. They used religious justification to help themselves continue their brutality towards them framing themselves as good in the new world. Many more years later, the Treaty of Greenville was signed in 1795, which redefined the boundary of Native peoples land, opening the path for a flood of new settlers. This act seems to be the start of a precedent for others similar to it later on in the 1800s.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830, signed into law by President Andrew Jackson, is another example of America's struggle to determine who should be included in American society. Congress had said that the law was an exchange of lands with Indians in States or territories for their removal east of the Mississippi River. Instead, tens of thousands of Native Americans were forcibly removed from their homes. The Treaty of New Echota, signed into law in 1835 established the terms for the forced removal of the Cherokee. The removal of the five tribes in the south ended up being called the Trail of Tears, due to the death and suffering of the Cherokee on the way. The federal government did not plan the journey well, often not providing food or bringing it in late or rotten. The bloodshed in this forced removal was not agreed by the Cherokee nor was it something that was really necessary. On a different note, the Declaration of Sentiments, signed in 1848 was an important moment for the women's suffrage movement, and helped launch it, ultimately leading to the recognition of a woman's right to vote. The document argued that women should be recognized as full citizens with equal rights along with a list of grievances from women.

To conclude, America has had a long history in trying to define what American society should look like. One important thing to note is that eventually America does begin to allow more people of different races and beliefs to become a part of the whole, the journey to that point just took a very long time. The way we view these identities has drastically changed from when we first started making assumptions, and they continue to evolve. Some moments from the past were awful and killed a lot of innocent people, and took the lives from them and some never

even gave any rights in the first place. Today, America has a continuous process of figuring out our systems of oppression as our society continues to grow and challenge its own assumptions and judgments.