

TOPICS

History 2111

Soiset

As will be discussed on 8/25, you need to give me your selection for your topics for the class presentation and research paper by 9/9. This is to prevent duplication of effort as much to insure that work is under way. Please feel free to make suggestions on other topics--provided no one else has asked to do the same thing, and it pertains to the course, I will probably be agreeable. But I must approve your topic. What follows are a few ideas, not to be considered the only acceptable ones. Read your syllabus on format and grading.

1. New Sweden and New Netherlands vs. New England: Why The Failures at Colonization?
2. Anne Hutchinson: A Puritan Heretic or A Woman Ahead of Her Time?
3. The Black Legend: Catholic Genocide or Protestant Propaganda?
4. The Acadians: Is Evangeline the story of 18th Century Ethnic Cleansing?
5. Revolution in America: A Struggle for Freedom, or Debt Avoidance?
6. Aaron Burr: Traitor, Empire Builder, or Unlucky Politician?
7. The Revolt of the Eastern Sioux: An Insurrection or a Race War?
8. Manifest Destiny: Nationalism or Imperialism?
9. Broken Indian Treaties: Temporary Truces or Deliberate Deceit?
10. Slave Rebellions and Abolitionism: Did One Fuel the Other?
11. The Mexican War: Who Really Started It?
12. Santa Anna: "Napoleon of the West" or Bloody Dictator?
13. Confederate Secession: Illegal or Ill-Advised?
14. The Uncivil War: Were Terrorism and War Crimes Sanctioned?

15. The Bear Flag Republic: Did It Ever Really Exist?
16. Brigham Young and Deseret: Did It Ever Stand a Chance?
17. Benedict Arnold: What Turned a Hero Into a Traitor?
18. The "Fort Pillow Massacre"--what really happened in this 1864 battle?
19. The election of 1860--did it make civil war inevitable?
20. Andrew Jackson and his policy toward the Native Americans: Realism or racism?

PROJECT GUIDELINES:

Minimum of two sources, not including your text. NO INTERNET SOURCES other than one Galileo source (attach a complete copy) will be allowed. A primary source--a person who had personal knowledge of the events, such as a diary or a contemporary newspaper--will result in a bonus. Try to look for personality quirks, possible motivations behind actions (other than those professed), evidence of the influence of outside forces on words or deeds, and humorous anecdotes that might make the story more interesting.