A People’s History of the United States Howard Zinn

Chapter 1: “Columbus, the Indians, and Human Progress”

1. According to Zinn, what is his main purpose for writing A People’s History of the United States?

2. According to Zinn, how is Columbus portrayed in traditional history books?

3. What is Zinn’s basic criticism of historian Samuel Eliot Morison’s book, Christopher Columbus, Mariner?

4. What major issue(s) does Bartolome de las Casas bring up regarding Spanish expeditions in the Caribbean?

5. Compare the strategies and motives underlying the conquest of the Aztecs by Cortez and the conquest of the Incas by Pizzaro.

A Patriot’s History of the United States Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen’s

Intro and Chapter 1: “The City on the Hill” (pages 8-19)

6. What argument do Schweikart and Allen make about the discovery of America? According to them, who discovered the new continent?

7. According to the text, how did Europeans differ from other cultures in their practice and effectiveness toward conquest?

8. The authors offer an interesting question on page 7, “Did Columbus Kill Most of the Indians?” Use text references to respond to this question.