

CALIFORNIA HISTORY: READING QUESTIONS FOR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

JAMES RAWLS: CALIFORNIA – A PLACE, A PEOPLE, A DREAM

(All homework assignments are typed, single space, 12 points font, and each answer should be numbered, but you need not retype the questions. Each answer should be 3-5 sentences).

1. Summarize the key features and promises of the ‘California Dream’ according to the author and explain each.
2. What three paradoxes does he identify? Explain each.
3. Does Rawls version of the California dream apply to all residents of the state? Are there groups or individuals who may be excluded?

Kevin Starr: A Nation State

(Short type written answers each 3-5 sentences)

1. According to Starr, why are California’s entertainment industry and natural beauty so important to the identity of Californians?
2. What technologies have shaped California’s economic development in various eras?

Public Religion Research Institute: California Dream Far From Real

(provide the correct percentage for each question – no written answers needed)

1. What percentage of Californians struggle with poverty?
2. What percentage of Californian’s in poverty believe “it would be somewhat difficult to pay for a \$400 emergency expense? (i.e. medical, house or car repair, travel, etc.).
3. What percentage of Californians who are working and experience economic hardship say that “hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people?”
4. What percentage of Californians who experience poverty do not feel they are valued by their employer at the workplace?
5. What percentage of Californians struggling with poverty would “encourage your people to leave the state to find better opportunities?”
6. What percentage of all Californians claim it is hard to achieve the American Dream in their state than elsewhere in the U.S.?

DOUGLAS MONROY: BRUTAL APPETITES: THE SOCIAL RELATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA MISSION

(short typed written answers to these questions)

1. What does 'gente de razon' mean? How did the Spanish padres regard the Native Peoples?
2. How was the Native American worldview, sexual practices, and relationship to nature changed by the mission system?
3. What were the working conditions for Native Americans inside the mission and outside on the pueblo or rancho?
4. What was the relation of the mission to the local economy? world economy?
5. What types of Indian rebellions occurred? Why? How successful were they?

CHAPTER 7: FOREIGNERS IN THEIR NATIVE LAND (RON TAKAKI - A DIFFERENT MIRROR)

(short typed written answers to these questions and answer either 1, 3, & 5 or 2, 4, & 5)

1. Who was Mariano Vallejo? What was his status and position in Alta California?
2. How did American travelers and immigrants like Henry Dana perceive the Mexicans?
3. What was the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo? Was it implemented?
4. How did Mexicans lose their land after the war?— Summarize each reason and provide examples.
5. How were Mexican-Americans exploited within a racially stratified caste-labor system by the late 19th century?

Frank Norris – Excoriates the Railroad as the “Octopus” 1901

(short typed written answers to these questions)

1. How does Norris portray and describe the railroads? Provide examples.
2. What does the phrase “Let my People” mean?

Henry George Expresses Skepticism About the Railroads 1868

(short typed written answers to these questions)

1. According to George what is the great law of compensation?”
2. What does he predict about California’s future?

CHAPTER 12: EL NORTE: THE BORDERLAND OF CHICANO AMERICA (RON TAKAKI - *A DIFFERENT MIRROR*)

(short typed written answers to these questions)

1. Why would a great migration from Mexico to the U.S. occur after 1900?
2. As Chicanos became urban and rural wage workers, what problems did they confront? Why was Mexican labor so important? in which industries?
3. Why would many different groups join together in a 'nativist' crusade against peoples of Mexican descent and recent Mexican immigrants in the 1920s?
4. What were the main features of the Chicano/Mexican barrio or "community within a colony."

MARK WHEELER: CALIFORNIA SCHEMING

(short typed written answers to these questions)

1. Why does the Owen's Valley today have few markers about the California Aqueduct constructed a century ago?
2. Who was Fred Eaton? What was his role in the construction of the aqueduct?
3. Who was William Mulholland? What was his role in the construction of the aqueduct?
4. Who were Harrison Gray Otis and Harry Chandler? How would they benefit by the aqueduct?
5. What precipitated the revolt by residents of the Owens Valley? Ultimately, how did the aqueduct transform the Owens Valley?

GEORGE LIPSITZ: THE MAKING OF DISNEYLAND

(short typed written answers to these questions)

1. What was Walt Disney's vision for a new kind of amusement park?
2. What was the relationship between television and Disneyland?
3. What were the principles determining the operation of the park? Why was Main Street so important?
4. In what sense was Disneyland the "town square of Los Angeles?" How (is) and was Disneyland a "microcosm of cultural practices of our society?"

F. ARTURO ROSALES: "THE STRUGGLE IN THE FIELDS" (CHICANO: A HISTORY OF THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT)

(short typed written answers to these questions as assigned – you will only answer either 1-4 or 5-9)

1. What was Cesar Chavez's background? Why would he become involved in labor organizing?
2. Describe the organizing techniques Cesar Chavez used to build the NFWA and the UFOC (and later the UFW).
3. What was the role of the Catholic Church in the farm worker movement?
4. What challenges and problems did the NFWA and AWOC confront when the first strikes occurred?
5. How did the struggles for civil rights and labor rights overlap and converge in California in the 1960s?
6. Why was the 1966 UFW march from Delano to Sacramento so important?
7. Why was the grape boycott significant? Why would the boycott become so popular amongst consumers?
8. Why was the election of Governor Brown in 1974 important for farm workers and the UFW? What was the Agricultural Labor Relations Board?
9. What problems and challenges did Chavez and the union confront in the 70s and early 80s?

League of Women Voters: What About the Initiative?

(Short typed written answers to these questions answer either 1 & 3 or 2 & 4)

1. What is an initiative?
2. What dramatic changes occurred in the initiative process in the late 70s?
3. What are the costs and benefits of the current initiative process?
4. What reforms does the League suggest?

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - HOW DID WE GET PROPOSITION 13? WHAT HAS IT MEANT FOR CALIFORNIA?

(short typed written answers to these questions answer either 1 & 3 or 2 & 4)

1. What were the roots of the tax rebellion of the 70s in California?
2. What were the main provisions of Proposition 13?
3. Who benefited the most?
4. What were the long-term consequences? What has been the impact on funding for the public sector? Which branch of government has acquired more power? What has been the fiscal impact on local government?

PETER SCHRAG - CALIFORNIA'S ELECTED ANARCHY

(short typed written answers answers to these questions)

- 1) What were the main indicators of “California in decline” in 1994, according to Schrag?
- 2) Where and when does he believe the problems began?
- 3) How did the tax revolt of the late 70s change California’s political landscape?
- 4) How has Proposition 13 impacted the public sector in California?--schools, universities, highways, water—and prisons?

CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT – WHO PAYS TAXES IN CALIFORNIA?

(short typed written answers answers to these questions)

- 1) Who pays the most taxes? Why?
- 2) Is California’s tax system progressive or regressive? Explain.
- 3) What changes could make the tax system work better for low and medium income families?