

Amanda Zarder

AP United States History- Example Paper

AP Example Essay

Although the Spanish, French, and English all had major impacts on their respective settlements, the English had a substantial influence on what became the American colonies. From the early founding of Jamestown in 1607 until the calls for American independence in 1776, the people who settled in New England had a direct impact on the nation's future. American culture and values changed over the course of the next one-and-a-half centuries, leading to uniqueness only present in the New World. Spanning from religious groups to scientific thinkers, developments in New England led to independent viewpoints that differed from Great Britain's. Ultimately, this was a contributing factor for the American War of Independence in 1776. The beliefs and development of North America between 1620 and 1776 were impacted by its early founders because of the Puritans' high moral standards for life as a religious community, Enlightenment thinkers' questioning of the world around them, and the Revivalists' shift in religious views and values. The Protestant sect of Separatist Puritans that reached America in 1620 brought influential religious beliefs, as they had wanted to separate from the English Church's residual Catholic practices and popish influences. The Enlightenment that occurred in the middle of the eighteenth century led to many well-read individuals to question aspects of religion and believe more in science and reason. The First Great Awakening that occurred in the beginning of the eighteenth century saw a time where people became more religious and emphasized direct and emotional worship.