

## Honors US History I Summer reading assignment

Answer the following questions after reading Howard Zinn's essay "Columbus, The Indians and Human Progress". Reading found here:

<http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/zinncol1.html>

1. Characterize the actions of Columbus and his men in relation to their treatment of the Arawak Indians. Should or can these actions be labeled as genocide? Why or why not?
2. Compare and Contrast the treatment of the Arawaks with that of The Powhatans and Pequots as well as the Incas of Peru in no more than two pages in length.
3. Howard Zinn writes from the point of view of the "conquered". His writing is considered "revisionist history". How should we judge the actions of historical figures? Do we judge them based on the morals of their time or the morals of today? Taking this into consideration use the readings about Columbus in Zinn's essay as well as your textbook to characterize Columbus as a hero or a villain. Your response needs to be a minimum of one page in length; not to exceed two pages.