James Madison Legacy Project Online Course: Review and Discussion and Research Questions

UNIT 1

Lesson 1

Section 1, Review Questions

Instructions: Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false.

1. Each of the American colonies was governed under a charter, which was a royal grant of authority.
2. The people who held corporate charters were strictly controlled by the British Crown.
3. Those who held proprietary charters had all of the powers of the Crown in their colonies.
4. Colonies tried to attract settlers using such incentives as religious freedom, free or cheap land, and an opportunity to participate in their government.
5. The economies of the colonies were similar.
6. There were significant differences between people living in urban and rural areas within the colonies.
7. For more than one hundred and fifty years the British monarchs let the colonies govern themselves essentially as they wished.
8. The Crown established uniform policies for the colonies prior to the 1760s.
9. Most of the settlers of the colonies were from the middle class of their native countries.
10. A strong sense of identity developed across all of the British colonies.
11. The colonies developed trade associations with other nations such as Holland, France, Spain, and Portugal in addition to England.
12. The Crown insisted on stricter enforcement of trade regulations in order to gather taxes to help pay for its protection of the colonies during the French and Indian Wars.
13. By the mid-18th century the colonies were acting quite independently of the Crown but cooperating with each other.

Section 1, Discussion and Research Questions

Instructions: Respond briefly to each of the following questions.

1. How did the period of "salutary neglect" set the stage for independence?
2. Which colonies would you suppose might develop stronger movements toward self-government, proprietary colonies or corporate colonies? What evidence can you find on this topic?
3. What rights and obligations of their recipients were contained in the charters?
4. What were the characteristics of those who received the charters?
5. What requirements regarding the governance of the colonies were in the colonial charters?
6. Were there significant differences between requirements regarding governance in the corporation and
proprietary charters? If so, how would you explain those differences?

Section 2, Review Questions

Instructions: Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false.

1. Classical thinkers like Plato and Aristotle believed that it is part of the nature of human beings to live in political associations.
2. Classical thinkers believed that interdependence is a positive good that comes from living in political associations.
3. Classical thinkers believed that it is a responsibility of political associations to provide people the opportunity to learn to speak and reason well.
4. Social contract theory sees government primarily as necessary to protect people from each other and to protect their rights and property.
5. Social contract theory and classical republicanism are compatible.
6. The Founders received a classical education that included a history of government.
7. Some of the advisory bodies created to assist governors of the colonies evolved into legislative bodies.

Section 2, Discussion and Research Questions

Instructions: Respond briefly to each of the following questions.

1. What practices embedded in colonial charters might have led to the eventual demand for the right to self-government?
2. What contemporary issues reflect the tension between social contract theory and classical republicanism?
3. How were executive, legislative, and judicial functions included in colonial charters?

Section 3, Review Questions

Instructions: Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false.

1. All constitutions are written documents.
2. All countries have constitutions.
3. A constitution can be seen as a blueprint that establishes a framework for a government.
4. In some countries constitutions serve as a fundamental or higher law.
5. A constitutional government is one in which the powers of those who govern are limited by a constitution.

Section 3, Discussion and Research Questions

Instructions: Respond briefly to each of the following questions.

1. What are the essential differences in the United States between the Constitution and laws passed by Congress and other legislative bodies?
2. What elements of the Constitution seem to have been shaped by the practical experiences of the
Framers?

3. What are the essential characteristics of a constitutional government?
4. What forms of government can be constitutional governments?