

Summer Reading and Assignment for AP United States History

Read the entire text of this book:

Title: *To Begin the World Anew*

Author: Bernard Bailyn

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Vintage

Available from Amazon for \$13.31

Write a short essay (no more than 3 typewritten pages) responding to the following prompt. The essay is due on the first day of class:

Describe Bailyn's central thesis regarding the differences between 17th and 18th century Americans and their contemporary European cousins. What differences does he believe are most significant? What are the differences that he finds most enduringly American and why? Do you think his arguments about the unique Americaness of the framers of the Constitution are convincing and consistent with the rest of the text?