

The American Revolution and American Peoples: A Comparative Inquiry
Sovereignty; February 2, 2002
Responses

1. Tell us two or three things you learned today.

- Hegemony, power, ideology
- Sovereignty is a nebulous concept that, like art, one knows it when they experience it but would be hard pressed to define it otherwise
- I learned *lots* about the issues of territories especially Puerto Rico. That was a fascinating whirlwind. From the reading I learned about strategies colonists used to develop political theory to support their efforts and how Native Americans' status was defined/redefined.
- Sovereignty needs to be considered in terms of a person's relationship to a government. How the nature/basis of authority has changed
- That the Dred Scott decision is directly opposed to that of Puerto Rico's status
- I learned how the U.S. acquired territories, I learned ways to discuss the concept of sovereignty
- Sovereignty is a complicated but important issue in history and current events that is important to discuss in every social studies classroom at every level
- Puerto Rico's unique status. Idea of sovereignty and power as they relate to the constitution. Sovereign powers had need to rationalize actions using religions.
- I learned about U.S.'s relationship to its territories and about the ambiguous status of these territories.
- The complexities involved in sovereignty, the ideas tied to hegemony.
- A better definition of sovereignty, information on Puerto Rico.
- Meaning of sovereignty and power, meaning of territory and sovereignty for Puerto Rico.

2. What did you like the most about today's session?

- The group dramatic presentations on different examples of sovereignty
- Role playing session
- Rob Venator's presentation raised fascinating questions (as advertised)
- The skits
- This issue of territories and the seemingly arbitrariness of what applies where and when
- The role playing section
- Interesting discussions, Rob was interesting and gave good overview of territory status-equalities & inequalities, role playing activity was fun
- Lecture and guest speaker
- I enjoyed watching the skits performed by all of the teachers.
- Interesting, thought-provoking topic – good word to dissect.
- The topic of sovereignty and the nature of the discussions.
- Skits/role playing.
- The readings for today's class, the discussions relating to sovereignty and power.

3. Any ideas for how to use information from today's session in the classroom?

- In communities with large Puerto Rican student bodies, the history of Puerto Rico's legal and political status could be used in the social studies curriculum
- Role playing applications of rights, sovereignty in middle school students everyday lives
- I'm going to need to think about this. There's lots here. The concept of sovereignty is an important one for sure.
- Idea of defining sovereignty in terms of present-day patterns: Bosnia, Palestine, etc.
- Using contemporary ideas and comparing them with historical events
- Role play activity – good applications
- Incorporate these ideas in discussions, lectures and role plays.
- Role playing, skits, possible guest speaker about Puerto Rico.
- Using skits in the classroom, using deconstruction – in terms of meaning/definition of an idea.
- To present my students (especially Government) with new views of sovereignty beyond simply the political ***
- Yes, the idea of religious justification for war and power dominance.
- Introduce the concepts of sovereignty to elementary students through role playing, i.e. through Revolutionary War concepts.

4. Any constructive feedback for the presenters and/or planners?

- Good, interesting and informative
- More visuals and hand-ons
- A handout that summarized the history that Rob Venator presented would be really helpful
- Need to connect concepts more concretely to the American Revolution, content was too theoretical
- Readings a little lengthy
- I enjoyed the diverse activities.
- Good job!
- Good session, informative.

5. Other comments

- Thank you. Maybe a few more bagels please. You've been doing such a nice job. The extra 15 minutes at lunch were a good idea. I'm grateful for the draft of the Declaration of Independence
- As always, your presentations got me thinking
- Interesting discussions – overall enjoyable

*** Denotes a word not legible.