**APUSH Vocabulary**

**MT 1 & 2 Ch. 1-5**

**nation-state -** The modern form of political society that combines centralized government with a high degree of ethnic and cultural unity. "No dense concentrations of population or complex nation-states...existed in North America...."

**matrilinear -** the form of society in which family line, power, and wealth are passed primarily through the female side. "...many North American native peoples, including the Iroquois. developed matrilinear cultures...."

**confederacy -**An alliance or league of nations or peoples looser than a federation. "The Iroquois Confederacy developed the political and organizational skills...."

**primeval -**Concerning the earliest origin of things. "...the whispering, primeval forests...."

**saga -**A lengthy story or poem recounting the great deeds and adventures of a people and their heros. "...their discovery was forgotten, except in Scandinavian saga song."

**middlemen -** In trading systems, those dealers who operate between the original buyers and the retail merchants who sell to consumers. "Muslim middlemen exacted a heavy toll en route."

**plantation -**A large-scale agricultural enterprise growing commercial crop and usually employing coerced or slave labor. "They build up their own systematic traffic in slaves to work the sugar plantations...."

**ecosystem -**A naturally evolved network of relations among organisms in a stable environment. "Two ecosystems...commingled and clashed when Columbus waded ashore."

**demographic -** Concerning the general characteristic of a given population, including such factors as numbers, age, gender, birth and death rates, and so on. "... a demographic catastrophe without parallel in human history."

**conquistador -**A Spanish conqueror or adventurer in the Americas. "Spanish conquistadors (conquerors) fanned out across...American continents."

**capitalism -**An economic system characterized by private property , generally free trade, and open and accessible markets. "...the fuel that fed the growth of the economic system known as capitalism."

**encomienda** - The Spanish labor system in which persons were help to unpaid service under the permanent control of their masters, though not legally owned by them. "...the institution known as encomienda."

**mestizo -** A person of mixed Native American and European ancestry. "He intermarried with the surviving Indians, creating a distinctive culture of mestizo...."

**province -** A medium sized subunit of territory and governmental administration within a larger nation or empire. "The proclaimed the area to be the province of New Mexico...."

**nationalism -**Fervent belief and loyalty given to the political unit of the nation-state. "Indeed England now had . . . a vibrant sense of nationalism . . ."

**primogeniture -**The legal principle that the oldest son inherits all family property or land. " . . . laws of primogeniture decreed that only eldest sons were eligible to inherit landed estates."

**joint-stock companies -**An economic arrangement by which a number of investors pool their capital for investment. "Joint-stock companies provided the financial means."

**charter -**A legal document granted by a government to some group or agency to implement a stated purpose, and spelling out the attending rights and obligations. "...the Virginia Company of London received a charter from King James I of England...."

**census -** An official count of population, often also describing other information about the population. "...an official census revealed that only about two thousand Indians remained in Virginia...."

**feudal** - Concerning the decentralized medieval social system of personal obligations between rulers and ruled. "Absentee proprietor Lord Baltimore hoped that...Maryland... would be the vanguard of a vast feudal domain."

**indentured servant**- A poor person obligated to a fixed term of labor. "...it depended for labor in its early years mainly on white indentured servants...."

**toleration -**Originally, religious freedom granted by an established church to a religious minority. "Maryland's new religious statue guaranteed toleration to all Christians."

**squatter -**A frontier farmer who illegally occupied land owned by others or not yet officially opened for settlement. "The newcomers, who frequently were ‘squatters' without legal right to the soil..."

**matriarch -** A respected, usually elderly, female head of a household or extended clan. "A single long-house might shelter a woman's family...with the oldest woman being the honored matriarch."

**predestination -**The Calvinist doctrine that God has foreordained some people to be saved and some to be damned.  "Good works could not save those whom ‘predestination' had marked for the infernal fires."

**elect -**In Calvinist doctrine, those who have been chosen by God for salvation.  "But neither could the elect count on their predetermined salvation...."

**conversion -** A religious turn to God, thought by Calvinists to involve an intense, identifiable person experience.  "They constantly sought, in themselves and others, signs of ‘conversion.' ..."

**heresy -**Departure from correct or officially defined belief. "... she eventually boasted that she had come by her beliefs through a direct revelation from God.  This was even higher heresy."

**seditious -**Concerning resistance to or rebellion against the government. "[His was] a seditious blow at the Puritan idea of government's very purpose."

**commonwealth -**An organized civil government or social order.  "They were allowed, in effect, to become semiautonomous commonwealths."

**autocratic -**Absolute or dictatorial rule.  "An autocratic spirit survived, and the aristocratic element gained strength...."

**passive resistance -**Nonviolent action or opposition to authority in accord with religious or moral beliefs.  "As advocated of passive resistance, [the Quakers] would ... rebuild their meetinghouse on the site where their enemies had torn it down."  
**asylum**- A place of refuge and security, especially for the persecuted or unfortunate.  "Eager to establish an asylum for his people...."

**proprietary -** Concerning exclusive legal ownership, as of colonies granted to individuals by the monarch.  "Penn's new proprietary regime was unusually liberal...."

**naturalization -** The granting of citizenship to foreigners or immigrants.  "No restrictions were placed on immigration, and naturalization was made easy."

**ethnic -**Concerning diverse peoples or cultures, specifically those of non-Anglo-Saxon background.  "...Pennsylvania attracted a rich mix of ethnic groups."

**headright -**The right to acquire a certain amount of land granted to the person who finances the passage of a laborer. "Masters-not servants themselves- thus reaped the benefits of landownership from the headright system."

**disenfranchise -**To take away the right to vote. "The Virginia Assembly in 1670 disenfranchised most of the landless knockabouts...."

**tidewater -** The territory adjoining water affected by tides-this is, near the seacoast or coastal rivers. "Bacon... had pitted the hard scrabble backcountry frontiersmen against the haughty gentry of the tidewater plantations."

**middle passage -** That portion of a slave ship's journey in which slaves were carried from Africa to the Americas. "... the captives were herded aboard sweltering ships for the gruesome ‘middle passage.' ..."

**fertility -**The ability to mate and produce abundant young. "The captive black population of the Chesapeake area soon began to grow not only through new imports bur also through its own fertility...."

**menial -** Fit for servants; humble or low. "... they performed the sweaty toil of clearing swamps, grubbing out for trees, and other menial tasks."

**militia -**An armed force of citizens called out only in emergencies. "[They] tried to march to Spanish Florida, only to be stopped by the local militia."

**hierarchy -** a social group arranged in ranks or classes. "... rough equality... was giving way to a hierarchy or wealth and status...."

**corporation -** A group or institution granted legal rights to carry on certain specified activities. "...the Massachusetts Puritans established Harvard College, today the oldest corporation in America...."

**lynching -**The illegal killing of an accused person by mob action without due process. "A hysterical ‘witch-hunt' ensued, leading to the legal lynching in 1692 of twenty individuals...."

**hinterland -**Inland region back from a port, river, or the seacoast. "No broad, fertile hinterland... beckoned people inland."

**social structure -**The basic pattern of the distribution of status and wealth in a society. "... many settlers... tried to re-create on a modified scale the social structure they had known in the Old World."

**blue blood -**Of noble or upper-class descent. "... would-be American blue bloods resented the pretensions of the ‘meaner sort.'..."

**melting pot -**The mingling of diverse ethnic groups in America, including the idea that these  groups are or should be "melting" into a single culture or people.  "Colonial America was a melting pot and has been from the outset."

**sect -**A small religious group that has broken away from some larger mainstream church.  "They belonged to several different Protestant sects...."

**agitators -**Those who seek to excite or persuade the public on some issue.  "Already experienced colonizers and agitators in Ireland, the Scots-Irish proved to be superb frontiersmen...."

**stratification -**The visible arrangement of society into a hierarchical pattern, with distinct social groups layered one on top of the other.  "...colonial society....was beginning to show signs of stratification...."

**mobility -**The capacity to pass readily from one social or economic condition to another.  "...barriers to mobility...raised worries about the ‘Europeanization' of America."

**elite -**The smaller group at the top of a society or institution, usually possessing wealth, power, or special privileges.  "...these elites now feathered their nests more finely."

**almshouse -**A home for the poor, supported by charity or public funds.  "Both Philadelphia and New York built almshouses in the 1730s...."

**gentry -**Landowners of substantial property, social standing, and leisure, but not titled nobility.  "Wealth was concentrated in the hands of the largest slave-owners, widening the gap between the prosperous gentry and the ‘poor whites'..."

**tenant farmer -**One who rents rather than owns land.  "...the ‘poor whites'...were increasingly forced to become tenant farmers."  
**penal code-**  The body of criminal laws specifying offenses and prescribing punishments.  "But many convicts were the unfortunate victims...of a viciously unfair English penal code...."

**veto -**The executive power to prevent acts passed by the legislature from becoming law.  "Thomas Jefferson...assailed such vetoes...."

**apprentice -**A person who works under a master to acquire instruction in a trade or profession.  "Aspiring young doctors served for a while as apprentices to older practitioners...."

**speculation -** Buying land or anything else in the hope of profiting by an expected rise in price.  "Commercial ventures and land speculation...were the surest avenues to speed wealth."

**revival -** In religion, a movement of renewed enthusiasm and commitment, often accompanied by special meetings or evangelical activity.  "The stage was thus set for a rousing religious revival."

**secular -** Belonging to the worldly sphere rather than to the specifically sacred or churchly.  "A more secular approach was evident late in the eighteenth century..."