

Zinn Assignments 2

ZINN CHAPTER 2

Study Questions

1. According to Zinn, what is the root of racism in America?
2. Why were Africans considered "better" slaves than Indians in Virginia?
3. How did 16th century Africa compare to 16th century Europe politically, economically, and militarily?
4. How did slavery in Africa differ from slavery in Europe and the Americas?
5. Describe the conditions that slaves on ships coming to America ("Middle Passage").
6. What was the position of the Catholic church in Portugal vis-à-vis slavery?
7. In terms of mortality, what was the cost of slavery?
8. What was the relationship between slavery and the plantation system.
9. What evidence exists that America's slaves did not accept their fate easily?
10. Why did slave owners fear poor whites?