Notes Example

The following is a student constructed outline. The source material is not from your textbook. Notice the basic structure and format. It is clean and clear. You must include the highlighted features in your notes for each chapter. Focus on the use of color to enhance dates, people, specific, events, and vocabulary terms. This student does a pretty good job, but tails off at the end of the chapter in this regard. Notice how there is no “People’s Section” at the end of the notes prior to the Chronology. You may want to do this, as the American Pageant has a plethora of names you will be asked to know in each chapter. .

**Title: Chapter 5: Imperial Breakdown**

**1763-1774**

**REORGANIZING THE COLONIES (Primary Heading-Create on your own)**

**British Issues (Secondary Headings-From the Textbook)**

* George III was monarch after the French and Indian War, young and naive
* 1763 – Empire was huge (From Hudson’s Bay to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the Mississippi), rulers faced with the difficult task of managing it (finances, encroachment on natives, uncooperative colonists)
  + Wanted to lessen colonial legislature power, but worried colonists would resist more now that they did not need protection from France anymore
  + Illegal trade in New England was costing them money for customs service
  + War debt of 146 million pounds – wanted Americans to share in the burden (Many paid only 5% tax income, 33% in England), economic recession from less spending meant British officials were pressured to reduce English taxes

**New Territories**

* 1763 – Britain took measures to deal with new territory, protect original colonies, and keep Indian peace
  + Body of troops in America at all times
  + Establish civilian government in Florida, Canada still under military control
  + **Proclamation of 1763 –** set a boundary called the Proclamation Line limiting British settlements to the east of the Appalachian Mountains
    - To separate whites and Indians and to keep the colonists towards the coast and therefore more manageable
* Colonists objected to these actions… Colonists wanted the land as their colonies were growing, some had to pay for the stationed troops – caused Britain to take further measures
  + Imposed direct taxes
  + **Quartering Acts** – colonial assemblies had to provide lodging and supplies for soldiers

**Native American Conditions**

* Indians being displaced by colonists, fur trade being corrupted by lack of colonial coordination of trade with Indians
* Lost ability of self-protection by westward British expansion – could no longer play European nations against one another
* 1759-1761 – Cherokee War in southern Appalachian highlands… Cherokees, former British allies, possibly stole Virginian horses, and were attacked by colonists. Cherokees then attacked western settlements in the southern colonies
  + 1761 – Forced in treaty to surrender land in the Carolinas and Virginia
* 1763-1766 – Pontiac’s Rebellion was an Indian rebellion led by Ottawa chief Pontiac and Neolin of the Delawares in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley regions (formerly French land – felt the British would take over their land and wipe them out now that the French could not protect them, also resentment for British trade)
  + Pontiac felt the French had respected them and did not take ownership of the land as the British did
  + British forced Indians to acquiesce territory for compensation and rights to hunting grounds in the Ohio Valley
* 1750s – British officials began trying centralized control of Indian affairs to prevent further uprisings
  + Colonists did not listen to the Proclamation of 1763, traders did not like interference in the fur trade (centralized control of it was expensive for Britain anyways)
    - Made adjustments to proclamation, returned Indian control to individual colonies in 1768

**Limiting Assembly Power**

* **Parson’s Cause** – dispute over Anglican ministers’ salaries – resulted in instructions to Virginian governor to not pass laws until the king approved them…
* **Currency act of 1764 –** Parliament passed this in response to complaints of British merchants suffering from depreciation if paper money – forbid American legislatures from making issues like this tender

**Sugar and Stamp Acts**

* 1764 – **Sugar Act** – passed to raise American colonial revenue – added more enumerated products, ships had to carry documentation of cargo
  + Royal Navy seized smuggler ships
  + Colonial customs collectors now collected directly instead of hiring deputies
  + Court for trying violations was in Halifax, Nova Scotia (did not use a jury, more likely to enforce trade restrictions)
    - Americans objected, Parliament added courts in Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston
* 1765 – **Stamp Act** – Required stamps (which had a charge) for legal documents, playing cards, publications, and other papers
  + Whereas the Sugar Act could be justified by Britain’s authority to control commerce, the Stamp Act was the first internal tax

**REACTIONS IN AMERICA**

**Constitutional Problems**

* Hard to claim Britain had no right to impose taxes, king and Parliament were sovereign
* **British Constitution** – not a single written document, combination of laws and customs, and acts by Parliament

**Taxation and Political Culture**

* Americans were used to only taxation by their own legislatures (considered them their Parliaments), felt that by being taxed directly they were being deprived of rights as Englishmen, but Britain viewed Parliament as sovereign over *all* constituents
* Country ideology – selfishness of human beings with need for a government to protect them, and the aggressive/expansive nature of government and the rights of humans to employ checks and balances (John Locke – governments could only enforce law for the good of the public)
  + Parliament (esp. House of Commons) had the duty to check the crown – provided funds hen the job was satisfactory, withheld taxes when people’s liberties were compromised
  + Appealing ideology for the colonists because it was an English idea, and concerned suspicion for those with power (Factions and rivalries between those without power in American political system), made many Americans feel like they could have a voice, appealed to the elite (had a duty to protect those under them)
  + Resulted in American value of control… Inspired the American Revolution

**Taxation Protests**

* Initial response to the Sugar Act was milder because it concerned trade, similar to the Navigation Acts (less protest in the south, more in New England because it threatened profits from smuggling)
  + Direct taxation weakened the power of elected representatives – all assemblies declared parliamentary taxes unconstitutional
  + 1764 – NY merchants and Boston artisans and merchants had joined the **nonimportation movement –** boycott of British manufactured goods to put economic pressure on Britain
* Stamp Act resulted in more objection, equal in all colonies, quickly condemned by colonial legislatures
  + Patrick Henry spoke from Virginia’s lower house first (reprinted in newspapers, his objections copied by other legislatures)
  + **Sons of Liberty** – group of activists protesting the Stamp Act, pressured British officials and stamp distributors
    - August 1765 – Ebenezer MacIntosh led a group in Boston to destroy a revenue agent’s property, another group robbed Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hutchinson’s house
  + Leaders in the colonies decided to all meet to form a response – nine colonies sent delegates to the **Stamp Act Congress** in New York City in1765
    - Adopted the **Declaration of Rights and Grievances** – claimed parliament had no right to tax the colonies, petitioned the king and parliament for repeals (Parliament refused)
  + Stamp distributors resigned as protests increased, many Americans ignored the tax, or avoided taxed items, continued to boycott British goods (hurt the merchants, who petitioned more) – March 1766 – Stamp Act was repealed, the Sugar Act was modified later that year

**AFTERMATH**

* **Declaratory Act** – passed in 1766 with the repeal of the Stamp At, stating that Parliament had the right to legislate the colonies always (colonists thought it was to save face, it was more)

**Strained Relations**

* Each side continued to hold their view of the other, suspicion between the two
* America believed since Britain had backed down, they could make them again if need be
* Celebrated the Stamp Act’s anniversary of repeal on March 18 as a national holiday (even without a nation), saw themselves united in a common cause
* Tensions between Britain and colonies grew – required Massachusetts to give compensation to people who had suffered losses in riots of the Stamp Act… Massachusetts did so, but pardoned the rioters
  + 1767 – suspended the NY legislature for not complying with the Quartering Act (NY obeyed before suspended so it did not go into effect)

**Regulator Movements**

* 1766 – unrest in southern backcountry resulted in part of the SC legislature to recommend to create courts there and petition Parliament for repeal of the Currency Act (decreased circulating money, more problems)
* **Regulators –** groups that arose in western North and South Carolina to rid outlaws in SC and protest taxes and court costs in NC
  + Backcountry was underrepresented in legislatures – took to illegal measures (closed courts and threatened tax officials in NC, whipped and sought after outlaws in SC)
  + Local elites disapproved, Britain did not encourage better representation, but limited assembly size instead, disallowed courts in the backcountry
  + 1767 – SC fixed representation, allowed crow to make judicial appointments
  + 1771 – fighting in NC

**TOWNSHEND CRISIS**

**Townshend’s Plan**

* 1767 – Charles Townshend came into power over the British government, passed the **Townshend Duty Act** imposed external taxes he thought the colonists would accept - regular imports like tea, glass, lead, paper, paint. Added a board of customs commissioners with its headquarters in Boston to curb smuggling
  + Enforced more strictly, foreshadowed more British interference
  + Ex – harassed Boston merchant John Hancock – a riot as a result in Boston meant they dispatched more troops there

**American Boycott**

* Resistance throughout the colonies, though they were “duties” it still was a tax (John Dickinson, a lawyer in PA, claimed a tax was a tax)
* Colonists felt that taxes to provided money for the government and salaries of governors and judges should be the duty of their own assemblies
* British officials forbade any delegates from meeting in response, organized a nonimportation movement anyways (signed subscription lists to only buy colonial made items and nothing from GB, Sons and Daughters of Liberty made handbills to urge shunning of particular merchants who did not agree, women spun thread at home)
  + Common purpose and trust (larger American community)
  + There were people opposed to it, for example William Henry Drayton, an aristocrat in South Carolina
* Eventually Britain appointed a new prime minister, Lord North, who repealed the Townshend duties but left the tax on tea

**Boston Massacre**

* March 5, 1770 – British troops fired on civilians in Boston in the **Boston Massacre** as a result of gradual building of tension
  + Soldiers were provoked as colonists threw sticks and stones at them, 5 men died (Crispus Attucks – half Indian, half black)
  + Troops withdrew from the city, soldiers were later acquitted

**Quiet Period**

* No grievances united America, but there were still issues, Britain was aggressively trying to get rid of smuggling
* **Committees of Correspondence** – to keep Americans informed on British actions, established in 12 colonies

**Boston Tea Party**

* Americans were drinking smuggled Dutch tea, so the British East India Company went bankrupt almost – Lord North passed the **Tea Act of 1773** which lowered its price so that colonists would buy it (actually just made them feel like they were being tricked, angry)
  + Thomas Hutchinson, now Massachusetts’s royal governor, was determined to unload the tea in Boston
  + December 16, 1773 – Sons of Liberty, led by Samuel Adams, disguised themselves as Indians and dumped 34 tea chests into the harbor in the Boston Tea Party

**Intolerable Acts**

* **Coercive Acts** – passed in 1774 (Boston Port Act, Massachusetts Government Act, Administration and Justice Act, the Quartering Act of 1774)
  + Boston Port Act closed the port of Boston until compensation was given to the East India Company and the Crown
  + Administration of Justice Act declared a British official who killed a colonist could be tried in England instead of in Massachusetts
  + The Massachusetts Government Act limited the amount of governor unapproved town meetings
  + Made the commander in chief in America, Thomas Gage, governor of Massachusetts
    - Quartering Act of 1774 declared his troops could be housed in basically any uninhabited building
* **Quebec Acts** – passed on the same day to extend Quebec’s boundaries to the Ohio River, would be governed by an appointed governor, no elected assembly, approved trials without a jury, Catholic Church could have the same privileges the French had allowed
* Colonists combined the two acts into the **Intolerable Acts**

**ROAD TO REVOLUTION**

**Protestantism, American Response to Intolerable Acts**

* Quebec Act took land away from CT, PA, and VA, and colonists also disliked the administrative pieces and felt like it may be an indication of their own future under Britain… Also disliked religious aspects, because some Anglicans in America wanted an American bishop, but it was decided against…
* Coercive Act responses were worse – Boston Port Act punished all Bostonians guilty or innocent, Administration of Justice Act was ominous, Mass Gov. Act raised concern over the safety of al colonial charters

**First Continental Congress**

* **First Continental Congress** – delegates from most colonies from September to October in PA in 1774 – each colony had one vote
  + Endorsed the **Suffolk Reserves –** denounced Coercive Acts, advised people to arm, called for economic sanctions against Britain

**Continental Association**

* **Continental Association** – agreement created by the congress to organize sanctions against Britain
  + Decided to cut off British imports after Dec. 1, 1774, if the issue was not fixed by September 1775, they would bar most exports to Britain and the West Indies, every colonial district would choose committeemen to enforce the policies
  + Issued a declaration of rights and grievances stating their position – denounced all British actions after 1763, but agreed to trade regulations that would benefit the whole empire
  + Sent addressees to the American people, Great Britain people, and the king
* All agreed on the unconstitutionality, but disagreed on how to resolve it (tried to protect their own colonies at the same time)

**Political Divisions**

* Independence was not yet called for, most were hoping Britain would mend its ways
* Divided over Parliament’s authority and the right to challenge it
  + **Whigs** were advocates of colonial rights, and **Tories** were their opposition (loyalists)

**OVERVIEW ON the RESTRAINTS AND BURDENS**

**Limits on Legislative Action (Graphic Organizers/Charts in the chapter-Include these features as best you can by typing out or referring to in the notes)**

* 1759 – royal instructions to restrict Virginia assembly from passing timely legislation
* 1764 – Currency Act limits colonial legislature’s ability to issue paper currency
* 1765 – Declaratory Act
* 1767 – Limit size of colonial assemblies
* 1774 – Intolerable Acts - Mass. Gov. Act limits town meetings, alters legislature, violates charter

**Limits on Territorial Expansion**

* 1763 – Proclamation Line
* 1765 – Declaratory Act
* 1774 – Intolerable Acts – Quebec Act enlarges Quebec

**Limits on Colonial Trade**

* 1762 – Writs of assistance, Revenue Act allows the navy to enforce customs regulation
* 1763 – Peacetime navy use and new customs officials – enforce Navigation Acts
* 1764 – Courts strengthened for Sugar Act
* 1765 – Declaratory Act
* 1767 – Courts strengthened for Townshend Acts, American Customs service in Boston
* 1774 – Intolerable Acts – Boston Port Act closes the harbor

**New Taxes Imposed**

* 1764 – Sugar Act
* 1765 – Quartering Act, Stamp Act
* 1767 – Townshend duties
* 1773 – Tea Act reduces duty – Boston Tea Party
* 1774 – Intolerable Acts – Quartering Act of 1774

**CHRONOLOGY**

* 1759-61 – Cherokee War
* 1760 – George III King
* 1761-62 – Writs of Assistance
* 1763 – Peace of Paris; Spanish accelerate imperial reforms; British troops in America; Proclamation Line of 1763; Pontiac’s Rebellion begins; Paxton Boys murder peaceful Indians; Virginia Court decides Parson’s cause
* 1764 – Sugar Act, Currency Act
* 1765 – Quartering Act; Stamp Act; Stamp Act Congress in NY
* 1766 – Stamp Act repealed, Declaratory Act passed; NY Assembly refuses to comply with Quartering Act
* 1767 – Townshend duties; Regulator movements begins
* 1770 – Boston Massacre; all Townshend duties but tea one repealed
* 1771 – NC regulator movement defeated
* 1772 –*Gaspee* burned; Committees of Correspondence
* 1773 – Boston Tea Party
* 1774 – Coercive Acts; Quebec Act; First Continental Congress meets and agrees to boycott