
Lesson Excerpt: The Roots of Popular Sovereignty

Short Paragraph Test: Assess student learning of chapter content by having students respond in writing in short paragraphs to the following questions:

1. What was the Protestant Reformation? What happened? What issues were at stake?
2. What were the effects or outcomes of the Reformation?
3. What were/are the main tenets of Protestants and Catholics? Of Calvinists?
4. What important writings came out of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation that would influence Western and American political thought? Describe each.
5. What is “popular sovereignty” in your own words?
6. Who supported popular sovereignty during the Reformation era? What scriptures did they use to support it? Cite both Catholic and Protestant examples.
7. How did the principle of popular sovereignty affect Western views of the church and civil government?

(These questions are also found in Chapter 1 of *Miracle of America* sourcebook/text, p. 46.)

Journal/Reflection Writing: Students reflect on and write his/her responses to assigned question(s) below. Responses may then be shared and discussed in class.

1. What, if anything, about the Protestant Reformation do you find unusual: Surprising/shocking? Beneficial? Admirable? Courageous? Positive/negative? Why?
2. What influences of the Protestant Reformation and Counter-Reformation do you see today in society & culture?
3. What do you think life would be like under “absolute rule”? Would you want to live under such rule?
4. What do you think are the benefits/positives, if any, of popular sovereignty?
5. Give some examples in your community or state and/or in our nation in which the principle of popular sovereignty is demonstrated.

(These questions are also found in Chapter 1 of *Miracle of America* sourcebook/text, p. 48)

Resource: *The Miracle of America High School Teacher Course Guide*

High School

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Activity Location

Miracle of America High School Teacher Course Guide, Unit 1, Part 1, Activity 7: Biblical Basis of Popular Sovereignty, pp. 57. HS.

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