

Edmund Burke

- Lived 1730-1797, served in English Parliament from 1766 to 1794 in the liberal Whig Party
- His ideas are foundational ideas for conservatism (despite his being part of the liberal Whig party)
- Most well known for supporting the cause of the American colonists in their war for independence and for denouncing the French Revolutionaries early on



-“People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors”.

Edmund Burke Reading Assignment

1. Carefully/closely read each of the two documents. Mark up the texts. Notice the dates of each (March 1775 before “shots fired” in the American War of Independence, and 1790 prior to the death of Louis and radical phase of the Revolution)
2. Respond to the following tasks on a piece of paper that will be collected tomorrow at the start of class. Task 2 follows the “Short Answer Question” format of the AP Exam. Remember (ACE = Answer the question, Cite specific evidence, Explain your assertion)

Task 1: In your own words, in 3–4 sentences, for each document, summarize the main ideas.

Task 2: Respond the following in the same format/style you would for an SAQ.

- A. Briefly describe and explain how one Enlightenment thinker would react to Burke’s speech “On Conciliation with the Colonies”.
- B. Briefly describe and explain how the French Revolutionaries and King Louis XVI would react to Burke’s assessment of the French Revolution.
- C. Briefly assess Burke’s support the English colonies in 1775, but condemnation the French Revolution in 1790 using specific historical evidence and the documents.