**We the People**

**“Sir William Blackstone – Guided Reading”**

**Mr. Fernandez**

1. The Influence of Blackstone on the Declaration

*The Source of Law*

1. According to Kent Schmidt, what is one of the greatest ironies in American history? Explain.
2. How many copies of Blackstone’s Commentaries were sold in the U.S. by 1771?
3. What did humanist philosophers consider to be the source of “natural law?”
4. What, or whom, did Blackstone believe to be the source of the natural law?
5. What does Blackstone mean with the quote, “until they were revealed, they were hid from the wisdom of the ages”?
6. Why do you think Jefferson “abhorred” Blackstone’s influence in the colonies?

*The Origin and Nature of Rights*

1. According to Jefferson, for what purpose are governments established?
2. How does the concept of “Creator-endowed rights contrast with Greek and Roman philosophy?

*The Morality of Insurrection*

1. What does it mean that the Colonists were “conscientious and methodical people?” Explain.
2. What role did Jefferson’s “Declaration” play in the revolution?
3. How did Blackstone’s arguments justify revolution in the colonies?

*Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*

1. How did Blackstone define the natural right to personal security?
2. Why is it “not at all surprising” that Jefferson used the phrase “pursuit of happiness” in the Declaration?
3. The Influence of Blackstone on the Constitution

*No Taxation Without Representation*

1. How did the Founding Fathers remedy the “tax problem” with Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution? Explain.

*The Unalienable Right to Property*

1. According to Blackstone, how is the natural right to property related to man’s natural right in the “pursuit of happiness?”

*The Unalienable Right to Self-Defense*

1. According to Schmidt, where is the 2nd Amendment “rooted?”