Guided Reading on “The Prelude to Revolution” and “The American Revolution”

1) Which two countries struggled for political preeminence in Western Europe and for territories in the Americas and Asia? How did the French and Indian War begin? How did it expand to a wider war? What was the impact on citizens of these countries due to the high cost of these wars? (639)

2) What was the Enlightenment? How did Enlightenment intellectuals contribute to furthering human knowledge? How were the ideas of Jean-Jacques Rousseau similar to John Locke? How were they different? (640)

3) Why didn’t the Enlightenment thinkers always criticize the monarchies? Which famous monarchs from which countries sponsored and promoted many intellectuals of the age? Which types of ideas did most monarchs suppress? (640)

4) How did women make important contributions to the spread of Enlightenment thinking? What function did the “salons” of Paris play in this process? Why was Benjamin Franklin so popular in the salons of Paris and among many Europeans? (641)

5) Which actions taken by the British led to the American Revolution? Why did the British take such actions? Who incited popular support for independence with his pamphlets? What principles in the “The Declaration of Independence” would influence revolution and protest around the world? (643-645)

6) Why did the British find it difficult to win the Revolutionary War? When and why did France enter the war? Why was this so important, especially in the final, pivotal battle of the war? (645-646)

7) Which type of government emerged from the Constitutional Convention of 1787? Who ended up having full rights and representation in the U.S.? (647)