

AP World History

Summer Reading Assignment

Congratulations! You have opted to take AP World History at SCHS next year! This is going to be a journey that spans thousands of years, studies millions if not billions of lives, and will hopefully give you an understanding of how we got here, to this very moment, in human history. We will be looking at history as a broad survey, but the point of the summer reading assignment is to give you all some perspective on some key concepts, eras, and/or individuals in history. To do this you will be to read **ONE** of the following books from the following categories:

Big Pictures of History:

- ❖ *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*- Felipe Fernandez-Armesto; Looks at human exploration around the world along with scientific, technological, political and economic implications.
- ❖ *Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History* – Penney M. Le Couteur, Jay Burreson; the fascinating account of seventeen groups of molecules that have greatly influenced the course of history.
- ❖ *The Origins of the Modern World*- Robert Marks: Fate and Fortune in the Rise of the West. Brief examination of reasons for European domination

People:

- ❖ *An Unrestored Woman*- Shobha Rao; 1947: the Indian subcontinent is partitioned into two separate countries, India and Pakistan. And with one decree, countless lives are changed forever.
- ❖ *Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East*- Scott Anderson; The Arab Revolt against the Turks in World War I was, in the words of T. E. Lawrence, “a sideshow of a sideshow.” As a result, the conflict was shaped to a remarkable degree by a small handful of adventurers and low-level officers far removed from the corridors of power.
- ❖ *The Secret History of the Mongol Queens: How the Daughters of Genghis Khan Rescued His Empire*- Jack Weatherford; The Mongol queens of the thirteenth century ruled the largest empire the world has ever known. Yet sometime near the end of the century, censors cut their story from The Secret History of the Mongols, leaving only a hint of a father’s legacy for his daughters.

Global Politics and War:

- ❖ *Merchant Kings: When Companies Ruled the World, 1600--1900*- Stephen R Brown; Commerce meets conquest in this swashbuckling story of the six merchant-adventurers who built the modern world
- ❖ *How Soccer Explains the World*- Franklin Foer; A surprising tour through the world of soccer, shining a spotlight on the clash of civilizations, the international economy, and just about everything in between.
- ❖ *In the Garden of Beasts*- Erik Larson; The time is 1933, the place, Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America’s first ambassador to Hitler’s Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history.

Once you have chosen your book, your summer assignment is two parts: a reading/reflection journal and a summative paper on the book, both should be printed out and are due on the first day of class. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU STAY ON TOP OF YOUR READING DURING THE SUMMER; THE ASSIGNMENT IS 200 PTS AND WILL IMPACT YOUR 1ST SEMESTER GRADE.** Contact ccamey@scspk12.org if you have questions on the assignment. Details on the assignments can be found on the next page.

PROJECT DETAILS →

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Summer Assignment Details

Part 1: Reading/Reflection Journal (100 pts)

Part one will be a reading journal which you will keep as you read and should span **EACH CHAPTER** of the book. You will need to find 2-3 passages from each chapter that you found interesting, controversial, enlightening or otherwise remarkable, write them down (using page number and chapter), and compose a brief, 1-3 sentence reflection as to why that passage stuck out to you. **THESE PASSAGES WILL BE VERY HELPFUL WHEN WRITING THE SUMMARY PAPER.** Reading journals should be typed but handwritten journals are acceptable as well. **A physical copy is to be handed in on the first day of class if written by hand or turned in on Google Classroom if typed.**

Part 2: Summary Paper (100 pts)

Part two will be a personal reflection of the book that you have read. **THIS PAPER WILL BE WRITTEN ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.** Your paper should give a BRIEF synopsis of the book (**No more than 4-8 sentences: What was it about? What were the main points?**) and descriptions of the individuals featured in the book (**Who were the important people discussed in the book? Why are they important to their historical era?**) with the majority of the paper being a personal reflection on the book as a whole (**Did you learn anything new? Has this book changed your view of history?**). **This paper will be written on the first day of class by hand and submitted before you leave.**

Rubric: Journal

- ❖ Covers all chapters in book: 50 pts
- ❖ Has AT LEAST 2-3 quotes/passages from book & reflection: 50 pts

Rubric: Summary

- ❖ Meets formatting requirements (Times New Roman 12 pt font, 1in. margins, double spaced): 20 pts
- ❖ Meets length requirements (3 full pages minimum 4 full pages maximum)*: 20 pts
- ❖ Has a clear and obvious synopsis of the book (Main ideas/themes): 20 pts
- ❖ Contains multiple references/reflections from the book (Reading Journal): 20 pts
- ❖ Contains personal reflection on the book: 20 pts

*If papers are a little over 4 pages, that is fine.

If you want a digital copy of this rubric, it is posted on the SCHS Library website or you can join the Google Classroom for your section of AP World to find this as a PDF and as a place where you can ask questions. (Note: Teachers are people too...If my responses are slow over summer break it is because I am busy. I will return answers to questions in a timely manner when able.)

B2 Summer Classroom Code: uitqsbl

B3 Summer Classroom Code: fs2zjzh