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:**
- *Guns, Germs, and Steel*- Jared Diamond; Diamond examines the movements in human society from the stone age to the modern and the impact of institutions, technology, and disease on the course of human history
- *Salt: A World History*- Mark Kurlansky; World history and the changes made through the salt trade
- *History of the World in Six Glasses*- Tom Standage; using 6 different beverages to tell the story of the world

**People:**
- *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*- Jack Weatherford; The Mongols and the life story of the man who made them mighty. This book explores how the Mongols helped birth modern society, even though they have a reputation for destroying societies.
- *An Ordinary Man: An Auto-Biography*- Paul Rusesabagina; The riveting life story of hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina who, as his country was being torn apart by violence during the Rwandan genocide of 1994, sheltered more than 12,000 members of the Tutsi clan and Hutu moderates, while homicidal mobs raged outside with machetes.
- *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates*- David Cordingly; an authoritative and definitive account of piracy's "Golden Age." Discover the truth of many accepted myths (i.e. "walking the plank" is pure fiction), which is more complex and often bloodier.

**Global Politics and War:**
- *King Leopold’s Ghost*- Adam Horschchild; Account of megalomaniac King of Belgium, his cruelty and those who fought him after unexpectedly finding themselves witnesses to a holocaust.
- *Merchant Kings: When Companies Ruled the World, 1600--1900*- Stephen R. Brown; A blend of biography, corporate history, and colonial history, this book offers a panoramic, new perspective on the enormous cultural, political, and social legacies, good and bad, of this first period of unfettered globalization.
- *A World Undone*- GJ Myer; A look at WWI and how this conflict changed Europe and the modern world.

Once you have chosen your book, your summer assignment is two parts: a reading/reflection journal and a reflection paper on the book. The journal is due on google classroom by midnight on the first day of class. The reflection paper will be written in class during our initial meeting and handed into the teacher. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU STAY ON TOP OF YOUR READING DURING THE SUMMER; THE ASSIGNMENT IS 100 PTS AND WILL IMPACT YOUR 1ST SEMESTER GRADE.** This may seem like a lot, but if you submit work that meets expectations, this can help your grade as you transition to the class.

Contact ccamey@scspk12.org if you have questions on the assignment. Details on the assignments can be found on the next page.
**Summer Assignment Details**

**Part 1: Reading/Reflection Journal (50 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.**

**Rubric: Journal**
- Covers all chapters in the book: 25 pts
- Has AT LEAST 2-3 quotes/passages from book & reflection: 25 pts

**Part 2: Reflection Paper (50 pts)**
Part two will be a reflection over the book that you have read. This paper will be written during the first meeting of the class and handed into the teacher. Students are allowed to bring a printed copy of their reading journal and/or the book they read to assist in the writing of the essay, pre-written essays are not allowed. Reflection papers should be formatted as follows:

**Rubric: Reflection**
- Length- 2-3 pages (10 pts)
- Briefly summarizes the book that was read, addressing the main ideas, themes, events, and personalities covered in the book. (10 pts)
- A lengthy reflection on how the book has either confirmed your understanding of the history presented in the book or enhanced the student’s understanding of the topic (20 pts)
- It provides excerpts from the book to support your writing that either enhanced or confirmed what you knew (this is what the reading guide is also for) and how these passages affected you as you read. (10 pts)

*If papers are a little over 3 pages that is acceptable as well.*