

**AP World Summer Assignment  
2023-2024**

Please note that the summer work is **due August 30.**

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**STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR BOOK**

You are to choose **ONE** of the following books to read this summer and to discuss on your first day back. Please read the selections and choose wisely. We will check in sometime before school starts to get a sense of your selections (usually around the beginning of August).

**General History**

- **Non-violence; The History of a Dangerous Idea** by Mark Kurlansky
- [The Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History](#) by J.R. McNeill and William H. McNeill
- [An Edible History of the World](#) by Tom Standage
- [Rivers of Power](#) by Lawrence C. Smith
- [Silencing the Past: Power and Production of History](#) by Michel-Rolph Trouillot
- **Non-Violence; the History of a Dangerous Idea** by Mark Kurlansky
- [Plagues and People](#) by William H. McNeill
- [Sapiens](#) by Yuval Noah Harari
- [Unbound: How Eight Technologies Made Us Human and Brought Our World to the Brink](#) by Richard L. Carrier
- **Cod, A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World** by Mark Kurlansky
- [Guns, Germs, and Steel](#) by Jared Diamond
- [Silk Roads: A new history of the world](#) by Peter Frankopan
- [The World That Trade Created: Society, Culture, and the World Economy – 1400 to the Present](#) by Kenneth Pomeranz
- [Cuisine and Culture: a History of Food and People](#), by Linda Civitello
- **The Big Oyster; History on the Half Shell** by Mark Kurlansky
- [SALT: A World History](#) by Mike Kurlansky
- [The History of the World in 6 Glasses](#) by Tom Standage
- [Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants, and Intoxicants](#) by Wolfgang Schivelbusch
- [Collapse: How Societies Choose to Succeed or Fail](#) by Jared Diamond

**Asian History**

- [Ghengis Khan and the Making of the Modern World](#) by Jack Weatherford
- [When Asia Was the World](#) by Stewart Gordon
- [Last Boat out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese who Fled Mao's Revolution](#) by Helen Zia
- [1421: The Year the Chinese Discovered America](#) by G. Menzies
- [When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne 1405-1433](#) by Louise Levathes
- [Life Along the Silk Road](#) by Susan Whitfield
- [Imperial Twilight: The Opium Wars and the End of China's Last Golden Age](#) by Stephen Platt
- [Khublai Khan; His Life and Times](#) by Morris Rassabi
- [Koreas: the Birth of Two Nations Divided](#) by Theodore Jun Yoo
- [Brief History of the Samurai](#) by Johnathan Clements
- [The Battle of Shirovama; the history and legacy of the Samurai's Last Stand in Japan](#) by Charles Rivers Editors
- [Japan: A short History](#) by Mikiso Hane
- [1964: The Greatest Year in Japanese History: How the Tokyo Olympics Symbolized Japan's Miraculous Rise from the Ashes](#) by Roy Tomizawa

**African History**

- [King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa](#) by Adam Hochschild
- [The Long Walk to Freedom](#) by Nelson Mandela

- [Wonders of the African World](#) by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- [The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African by Himself](#) by Olaudah Equiano
- [High on the Hog: a culinary journey from Africa to America](#) by Jessica Harris
- [Njinga of Angola: Africa's Warrior Queen](#) by Linda Heywood
- [African Dominion: A new history of empire in early and medieval Africa](#) by Michael Gomez
- [A Dying Colonialism](#) by Franz Fanon

#### The Americas

- [I. Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatamala](#) by Rigoberta Menchu
- [1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus](#) by Charles Mann
- [Indian Givers; how Indians of the Americas transformed the World](#) by Jack Weatherford
- [Stamped from the Beginning; The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America](#) by Ibram X. Kendi
- [An Indigenous People's History of the United States](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
- [Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of Pillage of a Continent](#) by Eduardo Galeano
- [Motorcycle Diaries: A Journey Through South America](#) by Ernesto Che Guevara
- [The Last Days of the Incas](#) by Kim MacQuerrie
- 1968, The Year that Rocked the World by Mark Kurlansky

#### Middle East

- [All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the roots of Middle East terror](#) by Stephen Kinzer
- [Crusaders, the epic history of the wars for the holy lands](#) by Dan Jones
- [I am Malal: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban](#) by Malala Yousafzai
- [The Crusades through Arab Eyes](#) by Amin Maalouf
- [Reading Lolita in Tehran](#) by Azar Nafisi
- [Black Wave: Saudi Arabia, Iran and the 40 year rivalry that unraveled culture, religion and Collective Memory of the Middle East](#) by Kim Ghattas
- [A Hundred Years War on Palestine](#) by Rashid Khalidid
- [Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country](#) on Earth by Noa Tishby
- [Lawrence of Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly, and the Making of the Modern Middle East](#) by Scott Anderson
- [Power, Faith, and Fantasy; American in the Middle East 1776 to Present](#) by Michael B. Oren

#### European

- [How the Irish Saved Civilization](#) by T. Cahill
- [A World Lit Only by Fire](#) by William Manchester
- [The Day the Universe Changed](#) by James Burke
- [The Voyage of the Beagle](#) by Charles Darwin
- [African Europeans an untold history](#) by Olivette Otell
- [Post War: A History of Europe since 1945](#) by Tony Judt

### **STEP 2: WRITE YOUR ANALYSIS**

- **(Thesis/Claim)** Author's thesis (claim)/main idea
  - Present the big picture of what the whole book is about.
- **(Evidence)** Evidence of both the author's claim and the themes
  - Present facts and data that the author uses to prove his/her claim and link to themes.
  - Are these primary or secondary sources and does that change your understanding?
- **(Contextualization)** Identifying the themes of World History

Throughout this course, we will be focusing on specific themes. (**humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organizations, technology and innovation**)

- Which of these themes are showing up in your book? Do any of the themes connect to other ones?
- **(Contextualization)** Periodization
  - Which periods of history are the central focus for the book?
  - How does the author identify historical periods/eras? Is it clear and understandable what periods are being discussed?
- **(Analysis and Reasoning)** Excerpts
  - Identify 10 excerpts from the book that provide a clear explanation of the author's claim and the themes.
  - Explain the relevance and insights into history that these excerpts provide you
  - Which excerpts taught you the most about the subject matter?

### **STEP 3: DISCUSS IN CLASS**

Please be prepared to discuss your book in class with other students. Have a great summer. I look forward to getting to know you in September!

### **AP Summer Work Grading Rubric**

Category	Scoring Criteria
Thesis/Claim	1 pt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Responds to the prompt/question with an established line of reasoning</li> <li>● Explains your line of reasoning</li> </ul>
Contextualization	1 pt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt</li> <li>● Connects this historical context to the book</li> </ul>
Evidence	1 pt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provides specific examples of evidence relevant to the prompt.</li> </ul> 2. pts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supports an argument in response to the prompt using specific and relevant examples of evidence</li> </ul>
Analysis and Reasoning	1 pt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Uses historical reasoning (e.g. comparison, causation, etc.) to frame or structure an argument that addresses the prompt/question</li> </ul> 2 pts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt/question, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt/question.</li> </ul>