

AP World History Summer Assignment

The history of the world is a daunting task, but also a fascinating one. Looking globally makes us reflect upon the developments in history in a completely different way. This summer assignment asks you to take that journey through the global lens: looking at what seems like small, unconnected events and piecing them together in a much larger puzzle.

The assignment is to read ONE of the following world history texts this summer and report back to the class on its contents and why it should (or should not) be part of the curriculum in a world history class.

What is required you ask? Great question.

1. Who is the author? What are his/her credentials? (Oftentimes, this can be found in the book itself.
2. What is the author hoping to accomplish in this book? Sometimes called the thesis or main idea, this is the overall purpose of the book. (none of them are to “describe history” or “give dates”).
3. A short synopsis of five of the most important chapters – chosen by you with an explanation of their importance to the premise of the book. You may include quotes, passages or larger parts that really illuminate the author’s point, really means something to you, or shows how the specific supports the whole. *Do not choose the first 5 chapters!
4. Connect the book to the course themes in world history. There may be just one, but many times there are more. Describe the connection to the theme using specific information from the book itself (you may quote).
5. Explain how this book looks through a global lens. In other words, how (and when) does the author look at the causes, effects, or context in a larger framework than the regional or local?
6. Describe why this book is helpful in a world history course OR why it is not helpful. The fact that it’s “boring” or “interesting” or “well-written” can be PART of your analysis, but you should also dig deeper and think about how it gives a further insight into the course.

This assignment is broken into two distinct parts. First, reading the book, answering the questions, and creating some form of visual for the other students to see. 100 points

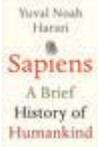
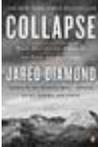
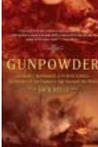
The second is the presentation. This will be connected to the senior project rubric for performance. 75 points

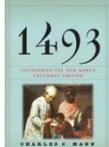
RUBRIC FOR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Category	4 (A) (95)	3 (B) (85)	2 (C) (75)	1 (D) (65)
Questions	Answers all of the questions with depth of knowledge	Answers all of the questions with some depth of knowledge	May not answer all of the questions, or answers questions superficially	Does not answer all of the questions, or answers all of the questions, but many are basic
Presentation	Weaves the different requirements together seamlessly with transitions and/or shows how the different parts fit together	Answers the different requirements in order with some attempt to connect the different parts together through transition	Makes some attempt to connect different requirements together	Makes little or no attempt to link the different components together
		Score X2 _____		
Spelling and Grammar	No spelling or grammatical errors	A few spelling or grammatical errors	Several spelling or grammatical errors	Many spelling or grammatical errors
Visual	Compelling and informative; information presented in a way that's easy to understand	Informative; information presented in a way that's easy to understand (may be a bit too much or too little)	Helpful but is too much or too little to reach a 3	Too much or too little; not very helpful
Organization	Presentation is well thought out and makes it easy for audience to follow throughout	Presentation is clearly thought out; easy for audience to follow throughout	Presentation is somewhat planned; may not connect together or may not be easy to follow throughout	Presentation doesn't seem planned; does not connect information together into a cohesive whole

AP World History Books

All of these books can be purchased through Amazon or another on-line carrier (Good Reads for instance). You can go to your local library, they will have many of these titles.

- 1. **Guns, Germs, and Steel** by Jared Diamond
- 2. **Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind** by Yuval Noah Harari
- 3. **Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed** by Jared Diamond
- 4. **Salt: A World History** by Mark Kurlansky
- 5. **Big History: The Big Bang, Life on Earth, and the Rise of Humanity** by David Christian
- 6. **The Last Days of the Incas** by Kim MacQuarrie
- 7. **Maps of Time** by David Christian
- 8. **Gunpowder: Alchemy, Bombards, and Pyrotechnics: The History of Explosives that Changed the World** by Jack Kelly



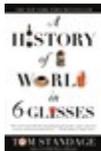
9. Children of the Ice: Climate and Human Origins by John Gribbin



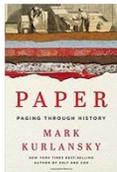
10. The Horse, the Wheel and Language: How Bronze-Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World by David W. Anthony



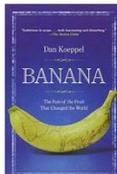
11. The Potato: How the Humble Spud Rescued the Western World by Larry Zuckerman



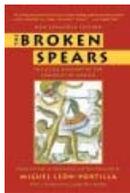
12. A History of the World in 6 Glasses by Tom Stantage



13. Paper: Paging Through History by Mark Kurlansky



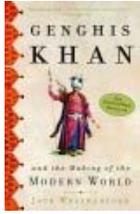
14. Banana: The Fate of the Fruit that Shaped the World by Dan Koeppl



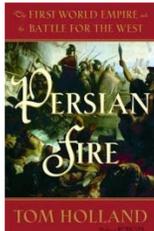
15. The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico by Miguel Leon-Portilla



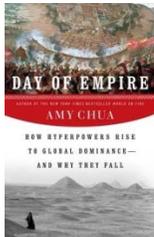
16. The Adventures of Ibn-Battuta, a Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century by Ross Dunn



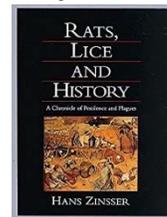
17. **Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World** by Jack Weatherford



18. **Persian Fire** by Tom Holland



19. **Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Dominance – And Why They Fall**



20. **Rats, Lice, and History: A Chronicle of Pestilence and Plagues** by Hans Zinsser