

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 **TWO** of the following books from the following categories (recommended you pick from different categories):

Big Pictures of History:

- ❖ *1968: The Year That Changed the World*- Mark Kurlansky; An engaging look at life in 1968 and how events around the world, as far apart as the US and Poland, were interconnected.
- ❖ *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*- Felipe Fernandez-Armesto; Looks at human exploration around the world along with scientific, technological, political and economic implications.
- ❖ *History of the World in Six Glasses*- Tom Standage; using 6 different beverages to tell the story of human history & its historical evolution over time.

People:

- ❖ *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson; A new look at the life and times of Winston Churchill during the darkest days of WWII for Great Britain.
- ❖ *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.
- ❖ *Zoya's Story*- John Follain: An Afghan Woman's Struggle for Freedom. Tells of a woman's clandestine resistance against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Politics and War:

- ❖ *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.
- ❖ *The Death of Democracy: Hitler's Rise to Power and the Downfall of the Weimar Republic*- Benjamin Carter Hett; Why did democracy fall apart so quickly and completely in Germany in the 1930s? How did a democratic government allow Adolf Hitler to seize power? In *The Death of Democracy*, Benjamin Carter Hett answers these questions, and the story he tells has disturbing resonances for our own time.
- ❖ *A World Undone*- GJ Meyer; Drawing on exhaustive research, this intimate account details how World War I reduced Europe's mightiest empires to rubble, killed twenty million people, and cracked the foundations of our modern world.

Once you have chosen your books, your summer assignment is two parts: a reading/reflection journal and a reflection paper. The first part will be your journals and they are to focus on your chosen books. These journals need to be submitted on Google Classroom* before the first day of class and a physical copy must be brought in for the reflection paper. 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.

**While digital copies are preferred, you can keep a physical journal for the books you read and hand those journals in on the first day of class. On the classroom page, leave a comment that reads "hand written journal" on this assignment.*

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

[PROJECT DETAILS](#) →

Summer Assignment Details

Part 1: Reading/Reflection Journal

Part one will be a reading journal which you will keep as you read your chosen books. The journal you keep should cover EACH CHAPTER of the books you have chosen; You should keep a separate journal for each book. You will need to find 3 passages **MINIMUM** from each chapter and record them. The passages should be centered around information that you found interesting, controversial, enlightening, or otherwise remarkable. Write these passages down (using page number and chapter), and compose a brief, 3-4 sentence reflection as to why that passage stuck out to you.

THESE PASSAGES WILL BE VERY HELPFUL WHEN WRITING THE SUMMARY PAPER ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.

Rubric: Journals (50 pts; 25/journal)

- ❖ Covers all chapters in the book (5pts)
- ❖ Reflections are neat and legible (5 pts)
- ❖ Has AT LEAST 3 quotes/passages from each chapter & reflection cited with page numbers (15 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; Your reflection is SUPPOSED TO BE ONE PARAGRAPH MAXIMUM. (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.

Google Classroom Codes for Reading Journal Digital Submissions:

B2 AP World History: jpuhtwi

B3 AP World History: ukzkwyn