

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 one from different categories):

Big Pictures of History:

- ❖ *1968: The Year That Rocked 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.
- ❖ *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World*- Peter Frankopan; From the Middle East and its political instability to China and its economic rise, the vast region stretching eastward from the Balkans across the steppe and South Asia has been thrust into the global spotlight in recent years. Frankopan teaches us that to understand what is at stake for the cities and nations built on these intricate trade routes, we must first understand their astounding pasts.
- ❖ *An Edible History of Humanity*- Tom Standage; Tom Standage draws on archaeology, anthropology, and economics to reveal how food has helped shape and transform societies around the world, from the emergence of farming in China by 7500 b.c. to the use of sugarcane and corn to make ethanol today. *An Edible History of Humanity* is a fully satisfying account of human history.

People:

- ❖ *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson; The time is 1933, the place, Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Nazi Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history.
- ❖ *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.

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.
- ❖ *King Leopold's Ghost*- Adam Hirschchild; Account of megalomaniac King of Belgium, his cruelty and those who fought him after unexpectedly finding themselves witnesses to a holocaust.
- ❖ *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 either written by hand or 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- 3-4 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 citations and 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: j6mdyv7jz

B3 AP World History: 2qs573yf