

A.P. World History---Summer Assignment ---June 1, 2010.

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To the students: Now that you have successfully completed the first half of the World History course, let me commend you for your diligence and persistence. I am certain that you are anticipating the pleasures of the summer recess, free from the demands and pressures of school. Despite this, an important aspect of being in A.P. World History is a Summer reading and writing exercise which is intended to improve your analytic and written skills---all of which will prove invaluable in the second half of the course (2010-2011). This might seem onerous at this time, but I am confident that you will find the readings enjoyable and enlightening. Anyway, I am assured that by now, you are an accomplished reader and a budding writer.

Reading list:

1. Barry, John M. *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History*. New York: Penguin Books, 2004. Prologue, parts 11, 1V and V.

11. Chang, Iris. *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*. New York: Penguin Books, 1997. Part 1---pp 19—105.

111. Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Forgotten Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999. Prologue, parts 1, and 11 (chaps.1-10).

- 1V. Heilbroner, Robert. *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1967. Chaps. 2, 4 and 10.

Directions: Choose any TWO from the above readings. Concentrate on the pages stipulated (indicated). As you read, take notes on those ideas or concepts that you find significant --- this will be useful when you write your responses to the readings. For each of reading, write a 1-2 page response. All responses must be type-written, double-spaced and be 12 point font.

Some questions you might consider as part of your written work include: What is the subject and historical context? What is the author's point of view? What kinds of evidence does he/she use? What are some conflicts that the writer identifies? Naturally, you are not limited to these questions, but you might want to use them as a basis or beginning.

Due date: First day of the new school year.