

# AP World History: Modern Summer Reading Assignment 2019-2020

Dear AP World History: Modern Scholars,

Congratulations on enrolling in the inaugural cohort of the AP World History: Modern course offered by the College Board here at Trinity Catholic High School. This course will be challenging, but you all have been placed here based on your excellent academic performance in your freshman year of high school and for exhibiting the requisite maturity to handle the work that we will do in this class. I have every confidence that if you put in 100% effort into this course, not only will you do well in the course, but also succeed on the AP exam administered in May.

In order to help prepare you for the rigor of this course, you are to complete a summer reading assignment that will require you to put in some time over the course of the summer. This is not an assignment that you will be able to finish in the final few days of summer and Labor Day weekend before classes begin.

Your assignment is to choose one of the following books that is listed below. These books have been carefully selected to cover a wide range of time periods and historical topics that we will explore over the next 10 months. Each book has its own author, is written in its own style, and is subject to the biases of the author who wrote it. You should not pick a book simply because the title seems interesting too you. Choose 2 or 3 books on this list that you are most interested in and thumb through them either at the library, bookstore, or on your Ipad/e-reader before making a final decision. Once you select a book, you will not be able to change it later on.

Once you have chosen a book to read, please fill out the Google Form which is included in the email that I have sent to you along with this letter and assignment sheet. You must have a book chosen by **Monday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. This deadline will ensure that you have enough time to finish your book and complete the project before we return to school.

After reading your book, you will write a scholarly book review. Begin the book review with a **complete and correct** bibliographic citation using Chicago/Turabian format. There is no title for a historical book review. The book review must be 1200-1500 words in the following format: 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Deviations from this format will result in lost points. Your book review must meet the following requirements:

Your book review must include the following:

- *an introduction to the book and its topic*
- *background information on the author*
- *the basic argument put forth in the book*
- *evidence the author provided to prove the argument*
- *positive and negative aspects of the book*
- *your evaluation of the book*
- *a brief conclusion*

An ideal book review will address the following:

- *sources the author used*
- *the author's methods and research*
- *the clarity, validity, and proving of the thesis*
- *the author's use of evidence*
- *the author's interpretations*
- *how the book reads overall*

Remember, these are book reviews, not book reports. You must be able to critically analyze what a historian has to say about a particular subject. The book review date will be announced prior to the start of the school year when the school calendar has been published.

You may choose from the following list of books to complete your book review

- Charles Mann- *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*
- Felipe Fernandez-Arnesto- *Humankind: A Brief History*
- Jack Weatherford- *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*
- Jared Diamond- *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*
- Jared Diamond- *Guns, Germs, and Steel*
- Mark Kurlansky- *Salt: A World History*
- Niall Ferguson- *The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World*
- Tom Standage- *A History of the World in Six Glasses*
- Tom Standage- *An Edible History of Humanity*
- William McNeill- *Plagues and People*
- Roger Crowley- *1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam with the West*

\*NB: If there is another book you would like to choose that is not on this list, please let me know the name of it and I will let you know if it is acceptable. It MUST be a college level text.

In addition to this assignment, please get plenty of rest and peace this summer. I look forward to seeing you all in the fall. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.