

AP European History Summer Reading Assignment

Spring-Ford Area High School

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School Fusion Link to AP Euro Summer Work

Reading: *The Western Heritage*, pages xxxii-lxxx.

Welcome to AP European History! If you love history, if you love discovering diverse cultures, if you love Europe, if you love to travel, if you love to challenge yourself, if you love to learn, then this course is for you. In order for this course to meet the requirements of AP certification, it must be taught at the *rigor* of a *college-level* course. We will be going very fast, and covering a lot of information in a short amount of time. Therefore, in August we need to hit the ground running.

To accomplish this, I am assigning you a summer reading assignment so you are immediately ready to start AP Euro from 1350 the moment you walk into class in August. This reading assignment is meant to be a review of much of what you have previously learned in World History. Its purpose is to awaken your pre-existing knowledge. I hope it will be exhilarating and create in you an anticipation to learn more.

*Warning; I will **NOT** accept late summer assignments.*

To better understand the reading, I encourage you to know the 28 terms provided for you in the accompanying document. Each term is accompanied by three numbers in parenthesis. These numbers are the page, paragraph and line number where you will find the term. An example would be the term **culture** (xxxvi.3.2). This means the term *culture* is found on page roman numerals 36, paragraph three, second line down. I advise you to use context clues in the book when forming your definitions and a dictionary if you need further assistance.

When finished with the terms you will begin reading pages xxxii-lxxx. While reading, you must complete the *Summer Reading Notes* assignment which accompanies this packet. This will guide you through the reading and focus your attention on the most important information; the more important the information the more notes to be taken. Your notes will be composed of “summary sentences” which are your analysis of what you believe to be the most important pieces of information in a given section or primary document. In addition, do not neglect taking a look at the maps, graphs, documents & art exhibits. These help you process the information.

In addition, there is a reading assignment to prepare you for the course. I have included them in an accompanying document. I have also included a list of recommended supplies for the class. Other than that, please enjoy your summer. I look forward to seeing you in August!

AP European History Recommended Supplies:

- ___ A separate **3 ring binder** specifically for AP Euro
- ___ A **spiral notebook** for taking notes that can be put into your binder
- ___ A **3 hole punched folders** to organize your notes and handouts
- ___ Several **highlighters** of various colors
- ___ A supply of both pens & pencils
- ___ *An AP Exam Prep guide 2015 or newer* – Not required but will help with the course

Summer Reading Assignment

You are also asked to read and prepare an analysis on one book* from the attached list. This, too, will be due on the first day of class. The analysis should include:

Bibliographical Information

Synopsis of Book: (About 100 words) Brief description, or overview of the book

Analysis: (About 300-500 words) Analyze the book; do not merely describe its contents. Points to consider include the author's purpose, the book's thesis and major points, and the factual evidence used to support them, the view of history that the book provides, the book's organization, and what you found to be most interesting (or not) about the book. You may consult other sources such as book reviews and other sources to get historical background about the period of history, the people, or the events the book describes. Be sure to give credit for the contributions of others to your analysis (plagiarism!) The credits should appear in the body of your paper as citations and again in the bibliography. Background information should be brief: This is a book analysis, not a research paper or book report. Remember, this assignment assumes that you are a history student, not a professional historian. It is your analysis that is of interest to us in class.

The purpose of this reading assignment is to create an enthusiasm for reading and learning. Reading is to be enjoyable and educational. It is my hope that this motivates and prepares you for the level and amount of reading this course requires, but also to generate a love for European history.

There are a wide variety of books to suit different interests. If you find that none of the suggested books below spark an interest you can choose a substitute about any period or topic in European history. (Non-fiction only) Contact me if you have any questions. Email is best.

*Books can be found at the school library, public library, or can be borrowed from Mr. Landis (Prior to the end of the year) if you do not want to purchase any of the books.

Pennsylvania Standards

8.4.12

- A. Evaluate the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development throughout world history.
- B. Evaluate the importance of historical documents, artifacts, and sites which are critical to world history.
- C. Evaluate how continuity and change have impacted the world today.
 - * Belief systems and religions
 - * Commerce and industry
 - * Technology
 - * Politics and government
 - * Physical and human geography
 - * Social organization
- D. Evaluate how conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations have impacted the development of the world today.

Suggested Books:

A History of the World in Six Glasses – Tom Standage

The six drinks that have influenced and changed the course of history from pre-history to modern day

A World Lit Only by Fire – William Manchester

A portrait of the Medieval and Renaissance world

Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling – Ross King

The story of the painting of the Sistine Chapel and the surrounding intrigue

Bruneschelli's Dome – Ross King

The design and building of St. Peter's Dome in the Vatican

Guns, Germs and Steel – Jared Diamond

Why Eurasians have consistently ruled the world

The Great Cat Massacre – Robert Darnton

Cultural French history in unique stories

Nazi Seizure of Power – William Sheridan Allen

An unassuming German town helps Hitler's rise to power

Under the Black Flag - David Cordingly

Romance and reality of pirates' lives in modern European history

Sex with the Queen – Eleanor Herman

Survey of European history through arranged royal relationships

The Prince – Niccolo Machiavelli

Informative classic on power politics

Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944-1956 – Anne Applebaum

The Soviet Union holds power over Eastern Europe

Dogs of God - James Reston Jr

The pivotal events of 1492 including discovery and the dreaded Inquisition

A Distant Mirror – Barbara Tuchman

The calamitous events of the 14th Century