

AP World History Summer Reading Assignment

Guns, Germs, and Steel – Jared Diamond

I know this book is a challenge. It is meant to be. But! Fear not!

I am bestowing upon you guided reading questions and some tips:

1. One of the most valuable skills in the world (and for an AP World student) is being able to glean the main message out of something you have read. You must learn to actively read. This means you are doing more than allowing your glazed over eyes to stare at symbols on page after page. You need to actively engage yourself in the reading. That said, I can honestly tell you that even though I have a degree in history, I did not read every word of every page of every document or book I was asked to read in college. But! I did read the documents/books in a way that I extracted the main messages and themes from the reading. So...here's what I recommend.
 - a. If there is a star (**) in front of the chapter title, I truly expect you to read the entire chapter.
 - b. For the chapters not starred you should: read the intro to the chapter, read the first sentence of every paragraph, read the sections of the chapter you deem necessary to answer the guided questions, examine all tables and charts, and read the conclusion.
 - c. You absolutely should read enough to be able to answer the questions I have asked.

We will be revisiting the ideas from this book throughout the year. So, please invest time into reading and answering the questions.

2. Don't be afraid to use a dictionary.
3. To answer the questions just give me bulleted short answers unless instructed otherwise. (We're going to write plenty this year, don't you worry!) 😊
4. The questions are not meant to trick you – they should be obvious within the text. If you can't find them, read more actively! Some of them are in the heart of the chapter. I wrote the questions with the intention of them helping you get through each chapter.
5. In the past I have asked students to complete a map activity that helps familiarize them with world geography so that as we learn about places they have a pre-established sense of where we are talking about. Most of the students taking AP World this year just took World Cultural Geography so I do not think this extra work is necessary. If you did not, you may want to spend a little time becoming better acquainted with our world – these two sites are fun ways to quiz yourself:
<http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/> & <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Geography.htm>
6. Deadline – your guided reading packet is due the first Friday of the school year. Questions or concerns? Email me: halse@melbournecc.org

***Guns, Germs, and Steel* – Guided Reading Questions!**

****Prologue: Yali's Question**

1. What is Yali's Question?
2. What are three considerations Diamond discusses as he ponders Yali's question?

I. Part One: From Eden to Cajamarca

Chapter One: Up to the Starting Line

1. What was the "Great Leap Forward"? Which peoples did it impact, and what probably catalyzed this change?

Chapter Two: A Natural Experiment of History

1. What message is Diamond trying to convey with his focus on the conflict of the Maori-Moriori people?
2. What were the six environmental factors that contribute to the differences among Polynesian societies? Of the six, which do you think plays the greatest role in differentiation and why?

Chapter Three: Collision at Cajamarca

1. What happened at Cajamarca?
2. How did Atahuallpa come to be at Cajamarca?
3. How did Pizarro come to be at Cajamarca? Why didn't Atahualpa instead try to conquer Spain?
4. Why did Atahuallpa walk into the trap?

II. Part Two: The Rise and Spread of Food Production

****Chapter Four: Farmer Power**

1. According to Figure 4.1 what is a prerequisite to the development of technology?
2. In one paragraph or less please summarize how domestication of livestock and farming changed societies.

Chapter Five: History's Haves and Have-nots

1. Examine Figure 5.1 and Table 5.1; apply your knowledge of environmental and geographic factors to identify what these regions have in common. What environmental factors probably contributed to the success of these crops in their respective regions?

****Chapter 6: To Farm or Not to Farm**

1. What five factors contributed to the transition from hunter gatherer to farming?

Chapter Seven: How to Make an Almond

1. Describe three of the many factors that contribute to whether or not a plant becomes a crop that humans choose to domesticate.

****Chapter 8: Apples or Indians**

1. Identify at least four of the Fertile Crescent's advantages in terms of food production.
2. Identify New Guinea's 3 severe limitations.
3. When comparing Eastern United States, New Guinea, and the Fertile Crescent, what caused such a great difference in production?
4. What happened when more productive crops arrived from elsewhere (p. 153)
5. What two conclusions does Diamond want to exaggerate?

Chapter 9: Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle

1. What is the Anna Karenina Principle (when applied to the domestication of animals)?
2. List the five major domestic mammals. List the minor nine.
3. What are six reasons that 134 of the 148 "big wild terrestrial herbivorous mammals" cannot be domesticated?

Chapter 10: Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes

1. How did the rate of spread in Eurasia's East-West axes compare to the spread along the Americas North-South axes? (p. 178)
2. In paragraph form, why was the spread of crops from the Fertile Crescent so rapid?
3. Why was the rate of diffusion in the Americas so slow?

III. Part 3: From Food to Guns, Germs, and Steel

****Chapter 11: Lethal Gift of Livestock**

1. What are two historically famous epidemics?
2. What are the four common characteristics shared by lethal epidemics?
3. Why did the rise of agriculture launch the evolution of infectious diseases? (In complete sentences) (page 205)
4. List four diseases that are contracted from an animal.

Chapter 12: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters

1. What are the three basic types of writing systems and what is an example of each?
2. What civilization was first to develop a writing system and what was it called?
3. Why did writing arise and spread to some societies, but not to others?

Chapter 13: Necessity's Mother

1. Look up technology in a dictionary. Define.
2. Bullet out the 14 factors historians have identified as catalysts for the creation of technology.
3. Of the 14, discuss two in complete sentences that you think have the most influential impact on the creation of new technologies.

Chapter 14: From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy

1. Briefly summarize the four solutions Kleptocrats have resorted to maintain their control and elite lifestyle.
2. Summarize the three theories Diamond discusses to answer the question "How did small, noncentralized, kin-based societies evolve into large centralized ones in which most members are not closely related to each other?"
3. How does food production in make features of complex societies possible? (bullet four reasons)

IV. Part Four: Around the World in Five Chapters

Chapter 15: Yali's People

1. Why did Australia not develop metal tools, writing, and politically complex societies?
2. Why didn't more advanced technology reach Australia from its neighbors, Indonesia and New Guinea?

Chapter 16: How China Became Chinese

1. What is Sinification? (look it up online if necessary)
2. How do the Chinese achieve and maintain Sinification?
3. What are some characteristics or accomplishments of the Chinese civilization?

Chapter 17: Speedboat to Polynesia

1. What languages are part of the "Austronesian" family? (Fig. 17.1)
2. Study Fig. 17.2 and write a sentence summarizing the illustration.
3. What was the outcome of Austronesian expansion? (page 350!)

****Chapter 18: Hemispheres Colliding**

1. Using pages 354-357, make a chart that compares and contrasts Eurasian and Native American society prior to 1492.
2. Describe the five areas of technology that were contributing factors to Europe's conquest of the Americas.
3. Referencing Table 18.1; Which is the earliest developing society? Second earliest? Third? Which societies never developed writing systems? Which never developed iron tools?
4. What has the Native American population reduced by (%) since 1492?

****Chapter 19: How Africa Became Black**

1. List the five major human groups in Africa around 1000 CE (AD).
2. How many different language groups exist in the African continent?
3. Describe the characteristics and growth of the Bantus.
4. What does Diamond project actually happened to the vanished Khoisan populations?

Epilogue: The Future of Human History as a Science

1. Describe Diamond's explanation for why Europe rose to be a global leader instead of China or the Fertile Crescent. (In paragraph form)