

## AP WORLD HISTORY SUMMER !!!!READING PROJECT!!!!

Since your AP World History teacher cares about your education and wishes for you to excel at your learning, I am requiring that you read a portion of a book over the summer and complete a dialectic journal.

The title of the book is *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond. This is a National Bestseller that won a Pulitzer Prize. In this book Diamond theorizes answers to the question of why some people groups in the world advanced technologically and others did not. By reading this book you will begin the fall with a good foundation in the origins of civilization and also gain the context for understanding the interactions between people groups during the Age of Exploration.

Along with reading parts of the book, you must complete a **dialectic journal (No more than 3 pages)**. This provides you with a chance to pause and think about what you are reading and also hold you accountable for doing this assignment. The requirements for the journal are as follows: Write the thesis of the book at the top of the paper. Then:

1. Quote an important/key idea from each part of the book that supports the author's thesis. To quote means to write it verbatim. There are six parts of the book, including the prologue and the epilogue. You must include three quotes from the epilogue for a total of eight quotes. Quote Diamond when he is articulating his thesis or providing a key concept that supports his thesis.
2. After each quote, you must respond to the Diamond in writing.
  - a. Explaining what the quote means in the context of the book
  - b. Pointing out how it supports the writer's thesis.
  - c. Using your own prior knowledge & the book, state whether you think Diamond has a valid point or not. Explain.

3. You must type the quotes and your responses. You may use the 'a', 'b', 'c' format

My goal for you is to thoughtfully read the book and interact with the author through your journal. I am also looking to see if you can understand a writer's thesis and how he/she supports it with evidence and reason.

Here are the chapters you **do not have to read**: Ch. 2; Ch 7; Ch. 14; Ch. 15; Ch. 17. Of course, you may read these chapters if you wish, but it is not required.

You can find *Guns, Germs and Steel* at the local libraries or local bookstores or online at such stores as Amazon.com. I also have several copies I will lend out on a first come, first serve basis.

I encourage you, **do not procrastinate**. This is a long book and cannot be rushed through. Start early. Read often. Write as you go.

This assignment is **due** the day after Labor Day. If you choose not to do this assignment, you should consider taking another social studies class. This assignment is worth **100 points**.